

NORTH DAKOTA 2026-27

HUNTING AND TRAPPING GUIDE

UPLAND GAME

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

FURBEARER/TRAPPING



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Dakota | Game and Fish
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The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

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This guide is provided for informational purposes and is not intended as a complete listing of regulations. For more specific information on regulations and laws, visit the Game and Fish Department website (for season proclamations) or for North Dakota state laws go to www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/T20-1.html.

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2026-27 HUNTING SEASONS

SEASON		OPENS	CLOSES	DAILY LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
UPLAND GAME	HUNTING OF ANY KIND BY NONRESIDENTS IS PROHIBITED ON PLOTS OR STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS OCT. 10-16. Exception: Nonresidents hunting on PLOTS land they own.				
	Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sept. 12	Jan. 3	3	12
	Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 12	Jan. 3	3	12
	Hungarian Partridge	Sept. 12	Jan. 3	3	12
	Tree Squirrel	Sept. 12	Feb. 28	4	12
	Youth Pheasant	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	3	6
	Regular Pheasant	Oct. 10	Jan. 3	3	12
	Sage Grouse	CLOSED	CLOSED		
MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS	Greater Prairie Chicken (Pinnated Grouse)	CLOSED	CLOSED		
	Early Canada Goose				
	Missouri River Canada Goose Zone	Aug. 15	Sept. 7	15	45
	Western ND Canada Goose Zone	Aug. 15	Sept. 15	15	45
	Eastern ND Canada Goose Zone	Aug. 15	Sept. 22	15	45
	Crow Fall	Aug. 15	Nov. 2	No Limit	No Limit
	Crow Spring (2027)	Mar. 13	Apr. 25	No Limit	No Limit
	Dove	Sept. 1	Nov. 29	15	45
	Sandhill Crane	Sept. 19	Nov. 15	See Species	See Species
	Snipe	Sept. 12	Nov. 29	8	24
	Youth Waterfowl	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	See Species	See Species
	Veteran/Military Waterfowl	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	See Species	See Species
	Woodcock	Sept. 19	Nov. 2	3	9
	WATERFOWL HUNTING FOR RESIDENTS BEGINS SEPT. 26, AND WATERFOWL HUNTING FOR NONRESIDENTS BEGINS OCT. 5.				
	Canada Geese				
	Missouri River Canada Goose Zone	Sept. 26	Jan. 1	5	15
	Western ND Canada Goose Zone	Sept. 26	Dec. 24	8	24
	Eastern ND Canada Goose Zone	Sept. 26	Dec. 19	8	24
	High Plains Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	Sept. 26 Dec. 12	Dec. 6 Jan. 3	See Species	See Species
	Low Plains Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	Sept. 26	Dec. 6	See Species	See Species
	Bonus Blue-winged Teal	Sept. 26	Oct. 4	2	6
	White-fronted Geese	Sept. 26	Dec. 6	3	9
	Light Geese	Sept. 26	Jan. 3	50	No Limit
	Tundra Swan	Oct. 3	Jan. 3	One Tag per Hunter	

2026-27 HUNTING/TRAPPING SEASONS

SEASON		OPENS	CLOSES
FUR B E A R E R / T R A P P I N G	Badger		
	<i>Firearms, Archery Equipment, Traps</i>	Year-round	Year-round
	<i>Cable Devices</i>	Nov. 23	March 15
	Beaver, Raccoon		
	<i>Firearms, Traps, Archery Equipment, Underwater Cable Devices</i>	Year-round	Year-round
	<i>Cable Devices on Land</i>	Nov. 23	March 15
	<i>Cable Devices on Land Within 50 Feet of Water</i>	March 16	May 10
	Bobcat		
	<i>Zone 1 - See Page 28</i>	Nov. 7	March 15
	<i>Zone 2 - See Pages 28-29</i>	Nov. 23	March 15
	Coyote, Fox		
	<i>Trapping Season (Cable Devices Nov. 23 - March 15)</i>	Year-round	Year-round
	<i>Day Hunting Season</i>	Year-round	Year-round
	<i>Night Hunting Season</i>	Nov. 23	May 31
	Fisher, American Marten		
	<i>(Traps and Cable Devices Only)</i>	Nov. 23	Nov. 29
	Mink, Muskrat		
	<i>Traps</i>	Oct. 24	May 10
	<i>Cable Devices, Firearms, Archery Equipment</i>	Nov. 23	May 10
	Mountain Lion		
	<i>Firearms, Archery Equipment</i>	Sept. 4	March 31
	<i>Pursue With Dogs</i>	Nov. 23	March 31
	River Otter		
	<i>(Traps and Cable Devices Only)</i>	Nov. 23	Dec. 13
	Weasel		
	<i>Traps</i>	Oct. 24	March 15
	<i>Firearms, Cable Devices, Archery Equipment</i>	Nov. 23	March 15

UPLAND GAME

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Sept. 12 **Closes:** Jan. 3

Daily Limit: 3

Possession Limit: 12

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Open Area: Statewide (see exception)

Opens: Sept. 12 **Closes:** Jan. 3

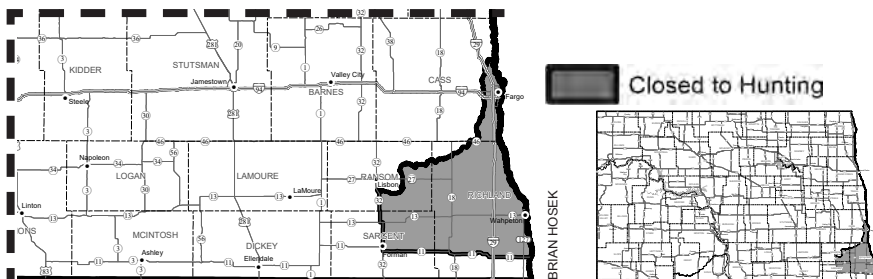
Daily Limit: 3

Possession Limit: 12

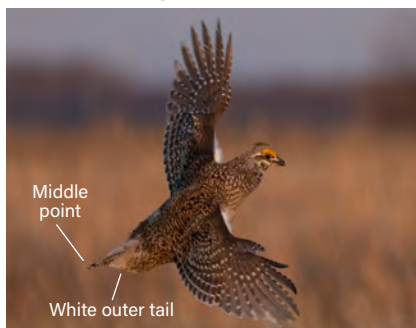
Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

EXCEPTION – That portion of North Dakota bordered on the west by ND Highway 32, on the north by the Shyenne River, on the south by ND Highway 11 and on the east by the Red and Bois de Sioux rivers.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE CLOSED HUNTING AREAS

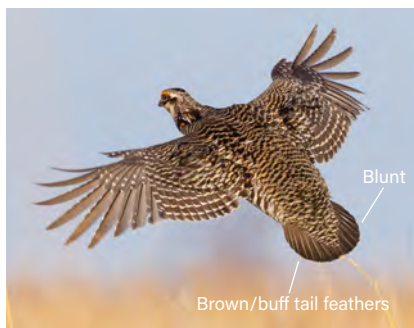


Sharp-tailed Grouse



Sharp-tailed grouse have tapered tails that come to a point in the middle. Outer tail feathers are white.

Greater Prairie Chicken



Greater prairie chickens have blunt, brown/ buff colored tails.

RUFFED GROUSE

Opens: Sept. 12 **Closes:** Jan. 3

Daily Limit: 3

Possession Limit: 12

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

PHEASANT (MALE PHEASANTS ONLY)

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Oct. 10 **Closes:** Jan. 3

Daily Limit: 3

Possession Limit: 12

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Youth Pheasant Season – Legally licensed residents and nonresidents ages 15 and younger may hunt pheasants statewide from Oct. 3-4. An adult of at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth pheasant hunter in the field. This adult may not carry a firearm and may not hunt any species of wildlife. Daily limit and hunting hours are the same as the regular season.

In accordance with state law, nonresidents are not allowed to hunt on Game and Fish Department wildlife management areas or conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) areas from Oct. 10-16. Exception: Nonresidents hunting on PLOTS land they own.

SAGE GROUSE – CLOSED

GREATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN (PINNATED GROUSE) – CLOSED

TREE SQUIRRELS

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Sept. 12 **Closes:** Feb. 28

Daily Limit: 4

Possession Limit: 12

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Tree squirrels may be taken with shotguns, rimfire, pre-charged pneumatic air guns and muzzleloading firearms, or with bow and arrows legal for taking upland game.

Information on the falconry (extended season) is found on page 15.



Upland game bird hunters are encouraged to send in wing envelopes with feathers collected from harvested birds. Instructions for submitting wings and feathers are printed on the envelope. To order a supply of wing envelopes, visit the Game and Fish website (<https://gf.nd.gov/hunting/upland-wing-survey>) or contact any district office.

HOW TO REMOVE A DOG FROM A BODY-GRIP TRAP

If a dog is caught in a body-grip trap, you have a brief amount of time to safely release the animal. It is important to act as quickly as possible.

Body-Grip Trap Description

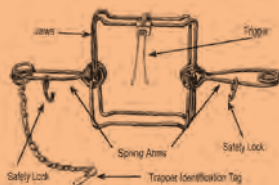
Body-grip traps come in a variety of sizes with openings ranging from 5 inches to 12 inches. Body-grip traps are used in water and on dry land, depending on the target species.

In most cases, the largest body-grip trap used on dry land has a 7-inch opening. Larger sizes are impractical, and depending on where set, may require enclosures or protection to avoid catching a dog.

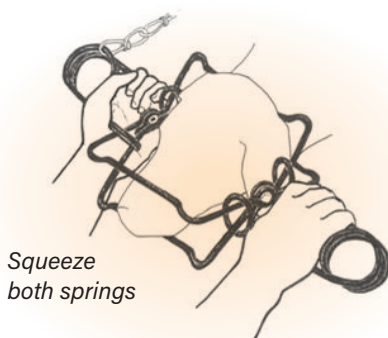
The body-grip traps with 5- and 6-inch openings pose little risk to catching a dog around the head.

Body-grip traps used in water may vary in size. Those traps with 5- and 6-inch openings will be used to target muskrat and mink. Larger traps with 8- to 12-inch openings will be used to target beaver. Be aware of what animals may be present and who may be sharing the landscape with you.

A Body-grip Trap and All Its Parts



JOE GOODMAN



Squeeze both springs

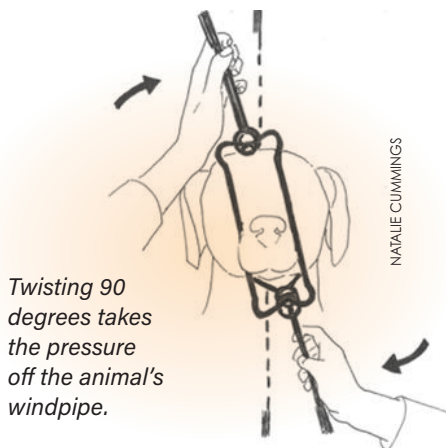
NATALIE CUMMINGS



NATALIE CUMMINGS

Step 1: Immediately squeeze both springs and turn the trap so the jaws are not placing pressure on the dog's windpipe.

Step 2: Compress one of the springs using both hands until you're able to fasten the safety lock over the opposite side of the spring.

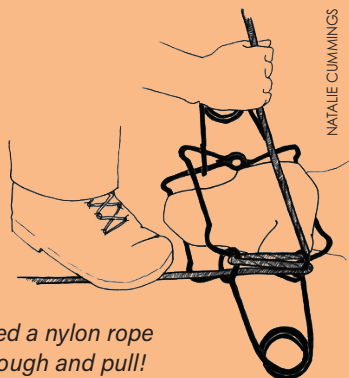


Step 3: Secure the safety lock, which keeps the spring compressed. Again, use both hands on each spring if necessary. This relieves the pressure from one side of the trap.

Step 4: Repeat the same process for the other spring.

Step 5: Slide the dog's head from between the jaws of the trap.

The Rope Trick



Feed a nylon rope through and pull!

If you cannot squeeze the springs of the trap easily, a 4-foot piece of nylon rope, belt, or possibly a leash will help increase your leverage. Although you will probably always have a leash with you, try and make it a practice of carrying a piece of nylon rope.

Step 1: Thread the rope through the large rings of one spring. The rings are located where the springs meet the rotating jaws.

Step 2: Bring the rope around and thread it back through the initial ring far enough to provide a good "handle."

Step 3: Put your foot on one end and pull on the free end. This will compress the springs so a safety lock can be latched. Do the same to the other spring.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

CANADA GEESE

AUGUST MANAGEMENT TAKE/EARLY SEPTEMBER SEASON

Missouri River Zone Opens: Aug. 15 **Closes:** Sept. 7

Western Zone Opens: Aug. 15 **Closes:** Sept. 15

Eastern Zone Opens: Aug. 15 **Closes:** Sept. 22

Daily Limit: 15

Possession Limit: 45

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

REGULAR SEASON

Missouri River Zone Opens: Sept. 26 (residents),

Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Jan. 1

Western Zone Opens: Sept. 26 (residents),

Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 24

Eastern Zone Opens: Sept. 26 (residents),

Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 19

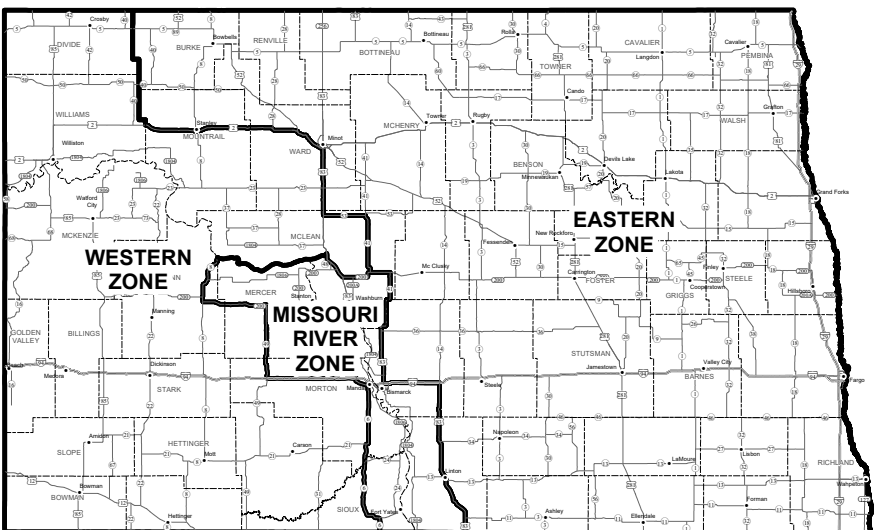
Daily Limit: 8 (Western, Eastern); 5 (Missouri River)

Possession Limit: 24 (Western, Eastern); 15 (Missouri River)

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m. each day through end of season.

***Extended shooting hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset on Saturdays and Wednesdays Sept. 26 through Nov. 28; and all day beginning Nov. 29.*

CANADA GOOSE HUNTING ZONES



BRIAN HOSEK

Note: A hunter may take up to 8 Canada geese in a day, provided no more than 5 come from the Missouri River Zone. Subsequently, a hunter may possess up to 24 Canada geese, provided not more than 15 come from the Missouri River Zone.

Missouri River Canada Goose Zone, starting where ND Highway 6 crosses the South Dakota border; then north on ND Highway 6 to Interstate 94; then west on Interstate 94 to ND Highway 49; then north on ND Highway 49 to ND Highway 200; then west on ND Highway 200; then north on ND Highway 8 to the Mercer/McLean county line; then east following the county line until it turns south toward Garrison Dam; then east along a line (including Mallard Island) along the south shore of Lake Sakakawea to U.S. Highway 83; then south on U.S. Highway 83 to ND Highway 200; then east on ND Highway 200 to ND Highway 41; then south on ND Highway 41 to U.S. Highway 83; then south on U.S. Highway 83 to Interstate 94; then east on Interstate 94 to U.S. Highway 83; then south on U.S. Highway 83 to the South Dakota border; then west on the South Dakota border to ND Highway 6.

Western Zone has the same boundaries as the High Plains Duck Unit described on Page 14, excluding the Missouri River Canada Goose Zone.

Eastern Zone has the same boundaries as the Low Plains Duck Unit described on Page 14.

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Sept. 26 (residents only), Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 6

Daily Limit: 3

Possession Limit: 9

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m. each day through end of season.

Extended shooting hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset on Saturdays and Wednesdays from Sept. 26 through Nov. 28; and all day beginning Nov. 29.

LIGHT GEESE

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Sept. 26 (residents only), Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Jan. 3

Daily Limit: 50

Possession Limit: No limit

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m. each day through end of season.

Extended shooting hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset on Saturdays and Wednesdays from Sept. 26 through Nov. 28; and all day beginning Nov. 29.

SANDHILL CRANES

UNIT 1

Opens: Sept. 19 **Closes:** Nov. 15

Daily Limit: 3

Possession Limit: 9

Open Area: That portion of North Dakota west of U.S. Highway 281.
Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m. each day through end of season.

Extended shooting hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset on Saturdays and Wednesdays beginning Sept. 26 through end of season.

UNIT 2

Opens: Sept. 19 **Closes:** Nov. 15

Daily Limit: 2

Possession Limit: 6

Open Area: That portion of North Dakota east of U.S. Highway 281.

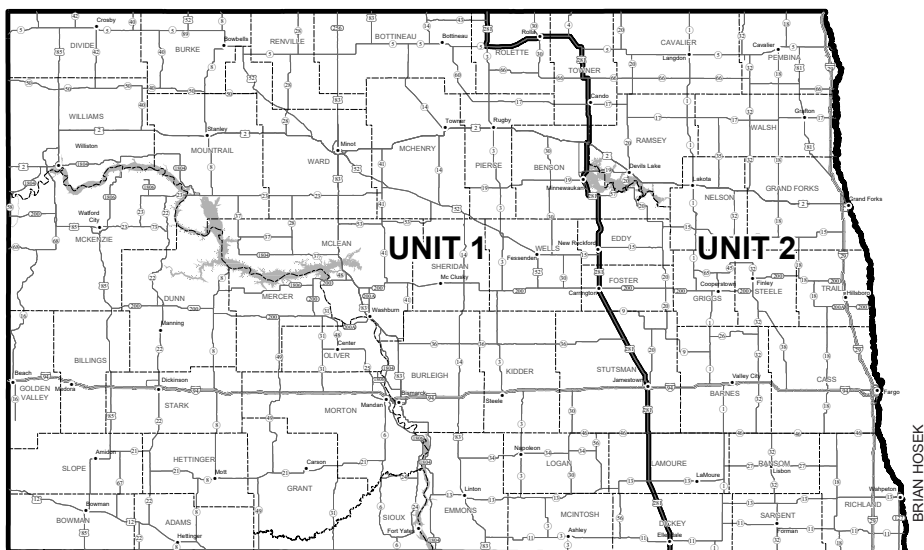
Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 2 p.m. each day through end of season.

Extended shooting hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset on Saturdays and Wednesdays beginning Sept. 26 through end of season.

A hunter may take up to 3 cranes in one day, provided all 3 birds are taken from Unit 1, or no more than 2 birds are taken from Unit 2. Nonresident sandhill crane hunters must possess either a small game license or a waterfowl license. Nonresident sandhill crane permits are valid for use within the dates and zones of nonresident waterfowl or small game licenses selected during purchase.

WARNING - Know your crane species BEFORE you hunt. (See Pages 18-19.) Endangered whooping cranes occasionally fly with sandhill cranes. Adult whoopers are snow white and young whoopers are white with some rusty brown feathers; black wing tips show on both. If you see a whooping crane, contact a Game and Fish official or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SANDHILL CRANE MAP



BRIAN HOSEK

DUCKS AND MERGANSERS

LOW PLAINS UNIT (SEE MAP on page 14)

Opens: Sept. 26 (residents only), Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 6

HIGH PLAINS UNIT (SEE MAP on page 14)

Opens: Sept. 26 (residents only), Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 6

Opens: Dec. 12

Closes: Jan. 3

Daily Limit: 6 (see Ducks and Mergansers restrictions below)

Possession Limit: Three times the daily limit

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

DUCKS AND MERGANSERS: SPECIES/SEX RESTRICTIONS

The daily bag limit on ducks (including mergansers) is 6 with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards of which only 2 may be hens, 3 pintail, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 scaup. Note: An additional 2 blue-winged teal may be taken Sept. 26 through Oct. 4 only. The possession limit on these restricted ducks is three times the daily limit.

COOTS

LOW PLAINS UNIT (SEE MAP on page 14)

Opens: Sept. 26 (residents only), Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 6

HIGH PLAINS UNIT (SEE MAP on page 14)

Opens: Sept. 26 (residents only), Oct. 5 (nonresidents)

Closes: Dec. 6

Opens: Dec. 12

Closes: Jan. 3

Daily Limit: 15

Possession Limit: 45

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON

Open Area: Statewide

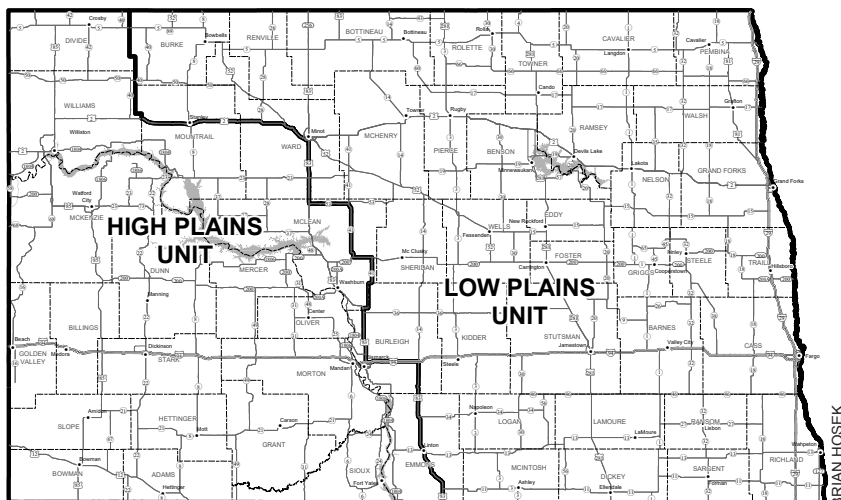
Opens: Sept. 19

Closes: Sept. 20

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Legally licensed residents and nonresidents 15 years of age or younger may hunt ducks, mergansers, coots, cranes or geese. An adult of at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. The adult may not hunt ducks, geese, cranes, coots, or mergansers, unless they qualify to hunt during the Veterans' and Active Military Personnel waterfowl hunting season. Shooting hours for the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The daily duck bag limit, including species restrictions and all other regulations that apply to the regular duck hunting seasons shall apply to this special season with the exception that bonus blue-winged teal are not available. The daily goose bag limit, including spe-

DUCKS HIGH PLAINS/LOW PLAINS UNITS



BRIAN HOSEK

The High Plains Unit is that portion of North Dakota found west of the following line: Beginning at the South Dakota border, then north on U.S. Highway 83 and I-94 to ND Highway 41, then north on ND Highway 41 to ND Highway 53, then west on ND Highway 53 to U.S. Highway 83, then north on U.S. Highway 83 to U.S. Highway 2, then west on U.S. Highway 2 to the Williams County line, then north and west along the Williams and Divide county lines to the Canadian border. The Low Plains Unit is that portion of North Dakota east of the High Plains Unit.

cies restrictions and all other regulations that apply to the regular goose hunting seasons shall apply to this special season, with the exception that hunters shall adhere to early September Canada goose regulations when hunting in an open early September Canada goose zone.

TUNDRA SWAN (BY PERMIT ONLY)

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Oct. 3

Closes: Jan. 3

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset

Licenses were issued by lottery. Successful applicants receive a tag allowing harvest of one swan during the season. Only one tag is allowed per hunter. In no case is it legal to possess a swan unless it is properly tagged. Since swans are waterfowl, nonresidents may hunt them only during the period that their nonresident waterfowl license is valid and must stay within selected zones.

SNIPE

Open Area: Statewide

Opens: Sept. 12

Closes: Nov. 29

Daily Limit: 8

Possession Limit: 24

Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

CROWS**Open Area:** Statewide**Fall Season:** Opens: Aug. 15**Closes:** Nov. 2**Spring Season:** Opens: March 13, 2027**Closes:** April 25, 2027**Daily Limit:** There is no limit on crows.**Possession Limit:** There is no limit on crows.**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

Crows may also be taken any time when committing or about to commit depredation as specified in federal law (50CFR21.43).

DOVES**Open Area:** Statewide**Opens:** Sept. 1**Closes:** Nov. 29**Daily Limit:** 15**Possession Limit:** 45**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

The dove bag limit includes mourning doves and Eurasian collared doves. It is illegal to shoot doves or other birds resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to such lines.

WOODCOCK**Open Area:** Statewide**Opens:** Sept. 19**Closes:** Nov. 2**Daily Limit:** 3**Possession Limit:** 9**Shooting Hours:** 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.**FALCONRY (SPECIAL EXTENDED) SEASON**

Licensed falconers possessing the appropriate licenses may hunt resident game species from Aug. 8 through March 14, 2027, and also migratory game birds during their open hunting seasons. In addition, falconers may hunt snipe, ducks, mergansers and coots Sept. 1-4, and Sept. 7-11.

SPECIAL VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, who possess a resident hunting license, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers and geese statewide on Sept. 19 and 20. Upon request, hunters must provide proof of veteran or active duty status. All hunters 16 years of age and older must also possess a federal waterfowl stamp. Shooting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The daily duck bag limit, including species restrictions and all other regulations that apply to the regular duck hunting seasons shall apply to this special season with the exception that bonus blue-winged teal are not available. The daily goose

bag limit, including species restrictions and all other regulations that apply to the regular goose hunting seasons shall apply to this special season, with the exception that hunters shall adhere to early September Canada goose regulations when hunting in an open early September Canada goose zone.

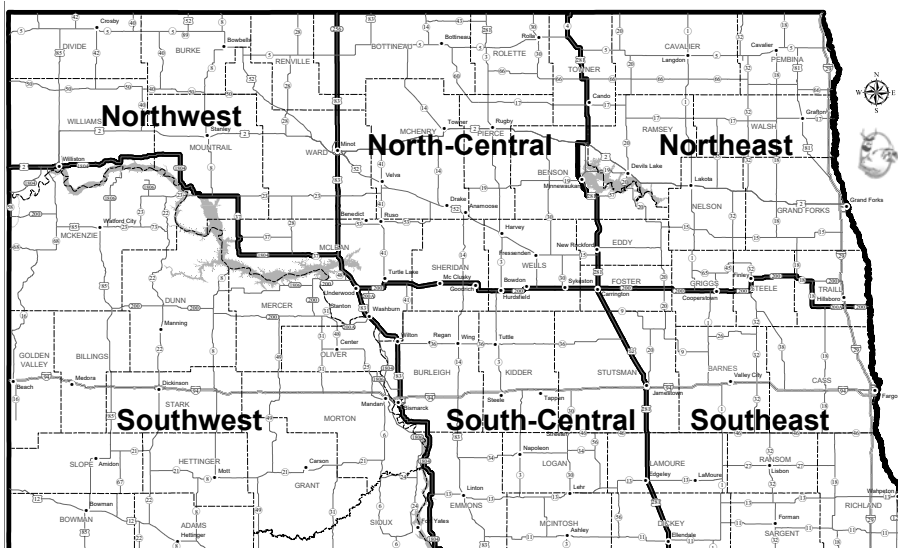
NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONES

NORTHWEST ZONE. Eastern boundary: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 37 (east of Garrison), U.S. Highway 83 north to ND Highway 256 and continuing north to the Canadian border. Southern boundary: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 37 (east of Garrison), ND Highway 37 west to ND Highway 1804 and continuing west to U.S. Highway 2 (at Williston), and continuing west to the Montana border.

NORTH-CENTRAL ZONE. Western boundary: From the Canadian border on ND Highway 256 heading south to U.S. Highway 83, continuing south to the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 200 (at Underwood). Southern boundary: At the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 200 (at Underwood) heading east to the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington). Eastern boundary: At the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington) heading north to ND Highway 4 and continuing north to the Canadian border.

NORTHEAST ZONE. Western boundary: From the Canadian border heading south on ND Highway 4 and continuing south on U.S. Highway 281 to the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington). Southern boundary: From the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington), head east on ND Highway 200 to the intersection with ND Highway 32; north on ND Highway 32 to ND Highway 200 (at Finley); east on ND Highway 200 to ND Highway 18; continue east on ND Highway 18 to Mayville; south

NONRESIDENT WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONE MAP



BRIAN HOSEK

on ND Highway 18 to ND Highway 200A; continue east on ND Highway 200A and then on ND Highway 200 to the Minnesota border.

SOUTHWEST ZONE. Northern boundary: From the Montana border, east on U.S. Highway 2, continuing east on ND Highway 1804 (at Williston), continuing east on ND Highway 37 to the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 (east of Garrison). Eastern boundary: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 37 (east of Garrison) south on U.S. Highway 83 to Bismarck then south on ND Highway 1804 to the South Dakota border.

SOUTH-CENTRAL ZONE. Western boundary: From the South Dakota border, north on ND Highway 1804 to Bismarck; north on U.S. Highway 83 to the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 200 (at Underwood). Northern boundary: At the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and ND Highway 200 (at Underwood) heading east to the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington). Eastern boundary: From the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington), head south on U.S. Highway 281 to the South Dakota border.

SOUTHEAST ZONE. Western boundary: From the South Dakota border, heading north on U.S. Highway 281 to the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington). Northern boundary: From the intersection of ND Highway 200 and U.S. Highway 281 (at Carrington), head east on ND Highway 200 to the intersection with ND Highway 32; north on ND Highway 32 to ND Highway 200 (at Finley); east on ND Highway 200 to ND Highway 18; continue east on ND Highway 18 to Mayville; south on ND Highway 18 to ND Highway

WATERFOWL REST AREAS

The following waterfowl rest areas are in effect from Sept. 26 through Jan. 3. The Missouri River waterfowl rest area is closed to goose hunting only. The Sheyenne Lake waterfowl rest area is closed to all waterfowl hunting and fishing from Sept. 26 through Jan. 3, but is open for ice fishing as soon as ice conditions are suitable. The location and full description of each area are detailed below.

- **MCLEAN, MERCER, AND OLIVER COUNTIES:** Missouri River – An area enclosed by the following boundaries: Starting at the east bank of the Missouri River at the mouth of Turtle Creek south of Washburn, thence north along the east bank of the Missouri River to Garrison Dam, thence west along the face of the dam to the west bank of the Missouri River, thence south along the west bank of the Missouri River to a point directly west of the mouth of Turtle Creek, and thence east to the point of origin. Closed to goose hunting only.
- **SHERIDAN COUNTY:** Sheyenne Lake – 15 miles N and 4 miles W of Goodrich. The meandered portion of Sheyenne Lake in Section 23, Section 24, Section 25, and Section 26, Township 149, Range 75; and in Section 29, Section 30, Section 31, and Section 32, Township 149, Range 74. Closed to all waterfowl hunting and fishing.

WHOOPING CRANES AND BIRDS THAT APPEAR SIMILAR

MIGRATORY BIRDS



WHOOPING CRANES

- » White with black wingtips.
- » Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips.
- » Necks long extended straight forward in flight.
- » Wingspan: 7 feet.
- » Legs extend beyond tail in flight.
- » Slow wingbeat.
- » Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes.



SANDHILL CRANES

- » Gray, with dark wingtips.
- » Neck long, extended straight forward in flight.
- » Wingspan: 5 feet.
- » Legs extend beyond tail in flight.
- » Slow wingbeat.
- » Flocks of 2 to hundreds.



SNOW GEESE

- » White with black wingtips.
- » Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet.
- » Short legs.
- » Rapid wingbeat
- » Flocks of 20 to hundreds.





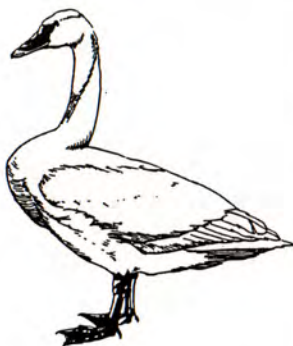
HERONS AND EGRETS

- » White or gray.
- » Neck long, folded in flight.
- » Legs extend beyond tail in flight.
- » Slow wingbeat.
- » Typically found singly or in pairs.



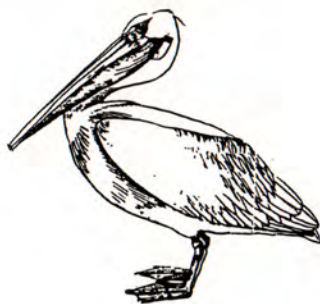
SWANS

- » All white.
- » Necks long, extended straight forward in flight.
- » Wingspan: over 6 feet.
- » Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight.
- » Flocks of 2 to 10.



WHITE PELICANS

- » White wings with black edgings extending almost to body.
- » Necks long, folded in flight.
- » Wingspan: 8 feet.
- » Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight.
- » Long, yellow bill.
- » Often in flocks of 20 or more.



*Drawing on this side by Doreen Curtis,
courtesy National Audubon Society.*

DUCK IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Identifying ducks in the field is important. It is necessary for hunters to be able to identify ducks by sex and species so that bag limits are not exceeded. The following are the most common ducks waterfowl hunters will encounter in North Dakota's marshes and fields. Males molt in summer, and many resemble a hen. Coloration gradually changes from henlike to a blotchy, partial coloration in early fall, and finally full winter plumage. Young of the year males also evolve through these stages.

Illustrations by Donald A Soderland, Copyright South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department,
Duck wing photos collected by Spencer Vaa, photographed by Gary Marrone.

Puddle Ducks



Mallard Male

LARGE DUCK,
2½-3 POUNDS,
24-28 INCHES LONG



Mallard Female



Northern Pintail Male

LARGE-APPEARING DUCK,
2-2½ POUNDS,
22-27 INCHES LONG



Northern Pintail Female



Gadwall Male

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1 ½-2 POUNDS,
18-20 INCHES LONG



Gadwall Female



**American Wigeon
(Baldplate) Male**

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1½-2 POUNDS,
18-20 INCHES LONG



**American Wigeon
(Baldplate) Female**



Shoveler (Spoonbill) Male

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1¼ - 1½ POUNDS,
18-20 INCHES LONG



Shoveler (Spoonbill) Female



**Wood Duck
(Woody, Squealer) Male**

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
UP TO 1 1/2 POUNDS,
15-18 INCHES LONG



**Wood Duck
(Woody, Squealer) Female**



Green-winged Teal

SMALLEST OF PUDDLE DUCKS,
ABOUT ¾ POUND,
UP TO 14 INCHES LONG



**Green-winged Teal
(Greenwing) Female**



**Blue-winged Teal
(Bluewing) Male**

SMALL DUCK, LESS THAN 1
POUND, 12-16 INCHES LONG



**Blue-winged Teal
(Bluewing) Female**

Diving Ducks



Canvasback (Can) Male

LARGE DUCK, UP TO
3 POUNDS,
18-21 INCHES LONG



Canvasback (Can) Female



Redhead Male

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
2-2 ½ POUNDS,
20-22 INCHES LONG



Redhead Female



**Lesser Scaup
(Bluebill, Broadbill) Male**

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1 ¾-2 POUNDS,
15-18 INCHES LONG



**Lesser Scaup
(Bluebill, Broadbill) Female**



**Ring-necked Duck
(Ringbill, Blackjack) Male**

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1½-2 POUNDS,
16-18 INCHES LONG



**Ring-necked Duck
(Ringbill, Blackjack) Female**



Bufflehead (Butterball) Male

SMALL DUCK,
UP TO 1 POUND,
12-14 INCHES LONG



Bufflehead (Butterball) Female



**Common Goldeneye
(Whistler) Male**

MEDIUM-SIZED DUCK,
1¾-2¼ POUNDS,
17-20 INCHES LONG



**Common Goldeneye
(Whistler) Female**



**Ruddy Duck
Male**

SMALL DUCK,
1-1½ POUNDS,
13-15 INCHES LONG



**Ruddy Duck
Female**



**Hooded Merganser
Male**

SMALL BIRD,
UP TO 1¼ POUNDS,
17½ INCHES LONG



**Hooded Merganser
Female**

FURBEARER/TRAPPING

DEFINITIONS

Body-gripping trap – trap designed to allow the animal's head, neck or torso to enter the trap opening and be held by compression of the jaws when sprung (example, Conibear). See TRAP SET RESTRICTIONS section.

Cable device – noose used for restraining furbearers by the neck or body (example, snare). See CABLE DEVICES RESTRICTIONS section.

Colony trap – enclosure device designed to allow the capture of one or more furbearers in a single setting with one or more one-way entrances that are partially or fully submerged in water; entire trap cannot exceed 12 inches high, wide or in diameter, by 36 inches long. See MINK AND MUSKRAT section.

Enclosed foothold – trap used for restraining furbearers by the foot with a push or pull-activated trigger located inside an enclosure and recessed from the opening; opening not to exceed 1.75 inches in height, width or diameter.

Floating colony trap – an enclosure device designed to allow the capture of one or more furbearers in a single setting with one or more one-way entrances that are entirely above the water surface; entrances not to exceed eight inches high, eight inches wide or eight inches in diameter.

Foothold trap – steel-jawed trap used for restraining furbearers by the foot (examples, long-spring or coil-spring foothold trap).

Green furs – any furs intended for sale that have not been tanned or dressed for use in taxidermy, wall hangings, rugs or garment leather; includes furs that have not been removed from the carcass.

Protective covering – trap set covering of structural material (wire mesh, wood, plastic, metal) limiting access to the trap through an opening not to exceed 8 inches high by 8 inches wide.

Sight exposed bait – any bait weighing in excess of 1 pound, composed of animal flesh, fur, hide, entrails or feathers placed in such a manner that it can be seen by any soaring raptor.

Water set – trap or cable device which is set or staked in a manner to permit the trap, cable device or trapped animal to reach water. See TRAP SET RESTRICTIONS section.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. See exceptions for fox (red and gray), coyote, beaver and raccoon in species sections.
- The opening hour on the first day of all furbearer seasons is 30 minutes before sunrise. After the first day of the season, trapping or using cable devices is legal at any hour.
- Written permission must be secured from landowners or operators before placing or setting any traps or cable devices on private land, including PLOTS lands. The owner or operator may determine the length of time permission is granted.

- The season for Canada lynx, gray wolf, swift/kit fox, black bear and wolverine shall remain closed.
- Trappers and cable device users must report any furbearer taken for which the season is closed, or other protected species incidentally taken, within 12 hours and make arrangements to turn over entire carcass to the Department.
- It is illegal to place traps or cable devices within 25 feet of any sight exposed bait.
- It is illegal to intentionally destroy, molest, disturb or tamper with any other person's trap or cable device, the set, or with any furbearer restrained therein.
- No furbearer may be taken and possessed alive.
- No person, while operating a snowmobile in this state, may kill, chase, flush, or harass any wild animal or wild bird, protected or unprotected.
- All traps or cable devices left unattended on state wildlife management areas or federal waterfowl production areas must have a metal or plastic tag displaying the trapper's name, address and telephone number, or equipment registration number.

CLOSED OR RESTRICTED AREAS

Wildlife management areas refuges, sanctuaries, national parks and historic sites shall be closed to the hunting and trapping of all furbearers. Exceptions: Hunting and trapping furbearers may be permitted at times and on those areas of federally owned refuges designated by the refuge manager. A permit from the refuge manager is required for those wishing to trap on federal refuges. For additional regulations on federal refuges, contact refuge headquarters. A permit from the Department director is required to take furbearers on those state wildlife management areas and state easement refuges posted closed to hunting.

Trapping on school trust lands is allowed, if the commissioner gives written permission. By giving permission, the lessee is made aware that legal traps and snares could be in the area. The state does not guarantee that school trust lands are legally accessible; in some cases, terrain and other natural obstructions may make access difficult. Access to school trust lands is strictly nonvehicular. Trails are used only for management purposes and may not be used by the public for vehicular travel. Contact the ND Department of Trust Lands at 701-328-2800 for the name and address of the current surface lessee.

CABLE DEVICE RESTRICTIONS

- Cable devices are permitted on state wildlife management areas and federal waterfowl production areas after the close of small game seasons, starting Jan. 4, 2027.
- A metal or plastic tag must be attached to each cable device. This tag must display the trapper's name, address and telephone number, or equipment registration number.
- One stop must be affixed to each cable device on land to prevent the loop from opening to a diameter greater than 12 inches.
- Cable devices cannot be placed or set in the field prior to the opening date and cannot remain in the field after the closing date of the cable device season for respective species.

- All cable devices must be affixed to an immovable object solidly attached to the ground. The use of drags is prohibited.
- Cable devices must be set so the bottom of the loop is no greater than 12 inches from the ground; or when the ground is snow covered, no greater than 12 inches above the bottom of an adult's footprint in the snow beneath the cable device with the full body weight on the foot.
- Cable devices must be constructed of single-strand (1x19) or multi-strand (7x7 or 7x19) carbon or stainless steel cable of 1/16-inch diameter or larger.
- Cable devices must possess a lock or breakaway device that allows the cable loop to disassemble at no more than 350 pounds pull. The testing standard for breakaway cable devices determines the pounds of pull for disassembly (gf. nd.gov/hunting/cable-testing-standards).
- Individuals who are using cable devices must assume liability and responsibility for ensuring that devices, locks or parts break or disassemble at 350 pounds pull, or less.

TRAP SET RESTRICTIONS

▪ State wildlife management areas

Year-round: Body-gripping traps with greater than 6-inch inside jaw spread must –

- » Be in 4 inches or more of water; or
- » Be recessed at least 7 inches in a plastic, wood or metal cubby with a maximum 50 square inch opening; or
- » Be recessed at least 10 inches in a plastic, wood or metal cubby with a maximum 80 square inch opening.

▪ All other lands

Sept. 1 – Oct. 23: Body-gripping traps with greater than 8-inch inside jaw spread and all water sets except those using enclosed footholds must –

- » Be in 4 inches or more of water; or
- » Be used in an upland set and recessed at least 10 inches in a plastic, wood or metal cubby with a maximum 80 square inch opening.

Oct. 24 – Jan. 3: Body-gripping traps with greater than 8-inch inside jaw spread must –

- » Be in 4 inches or more of water; or
- » Be used in an upland set and recessed at least 10 inches in a plastic, wood or metal cubby with a maximum 80 square inch opening.

Jan. 4 – March 15: No restrictions on placement.

March 16 – May 10: Footholds that are not enclosed and body-gripping traps placed in or on water, but not used on float sets, must –

- » Have a protective covering; or
- » Foothold traps not being used on a float set must be submerged under water; or
- » Body-gripping traps less than 8 inches inside jaw spread must have no more than 2 inches of the trap above the water surface.
- » Footholds that are not enclosed and body-gripping traps used on float sets must have a protective covering May 1 through May 10.

May 11 – Aug. 31: No restrictions on placement.

BADGER, COYOTE, FOX (RED AND GRAY)

Day hunting season – Red fox, gray fox, coyote and badger may be taken with firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns, archery equipment (including crossbows) and pursued with dogs statewide and year-round. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset each day. The season will officially close March 31 and reopen April 1.

Night hunting season – Red fox, gray fox and coyote may be taken with firearms and pre-charged pneumatic air guns at any hour during the night hunting season from Nov. 23 through May 31. Beginning Jan. 4, hunters can also use archery equipment (including crossbows) for night hunting of red fox, gray fox and coyotes. Any person who engages in the hunting of red fox, gray fox or coyotes during the time from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise must hunt exclusively on foot. Red fox, gray fox and coyote may be hunted on foot with the use of an artificial light, night vision, thermal vision or infrared light with a power source of not more than 6 volts. The artificial light must produce a red, green or amber color.

Trapping season – Red fox, gray fox, coyote and badger may be taken with traps statewide and year-round. The season will officially close March 31 and reopen April 1 of each year. Cable devices (snares) may only be used statewide from Nov. 23 through March 15.

BEAVER AND RACCOON

Beaver dams may be dismantled when their presence causes property damage.

Firearms, traps, underwater cable devices, archery equipment, pursue with dogs (raccoon only) – Open year-round (officially from April 1 - March 31)

Beaver and raccoon may be hunted statewide using firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns and archery equipment (including crossbows) during regular hunting hours. Beaver and raccoon may be trapped statewide using traps (foothold, body-gripping and cage traps) and underwater cable devices. Raccoon may be pursued statewide with dogs. Beaver and raccoon may also be taken at any hour of the day, while hunting on foot, with the aid of artificial lights, night vision, thermal vision or infrared light with a power source of not more than 6 volts. The artificial light must produce a red, green or amber color except when taking a raccoon treed or at bay. Legal firearms for flashlight hunting of beaver and raccoon are rifles or handguns firing a rimfire cartridge no larger than .22 caliber, or shotguns no larger than .410 gauge. Rifled slugs are not legal.

Cable devices on land – Opens: Nov. 23 – **Closes:** March 15

Beaver and raccoon may be captured statewide using legal cable devices.

Cable devices on land within 50 feet of water – Opens: March 16 – **Closes:** May 10

Beaver and raccoon may be captured statewide using legal cable devices. Cable devices must be placed within 50 feet of water and be no greater than 4 inches off the ground.

BOBCAT

Bobcat may only be harvested by North Dakota residents. Zone 1 includes land west of US Highway 83 from the Canadian border to the South Dakota border. Zone 2 is the remainder of the state not described as Zone 1. No person, taxidermist or fur dealer shall possess or purchase an untagged bobcat. When any part of the animal is mounted, if the tag is removed from the pelt, the tag must be securely fastened to the back or bottom of mount and remain there. The bobcat pelt must be removed from the carcass prior to presenting the bobcat to Department personnel for tagging. No bobcat pelt will be tagged until the animal is skinned and presented with the entire carcass, including the head. The carcass shall remain the property of the Department.

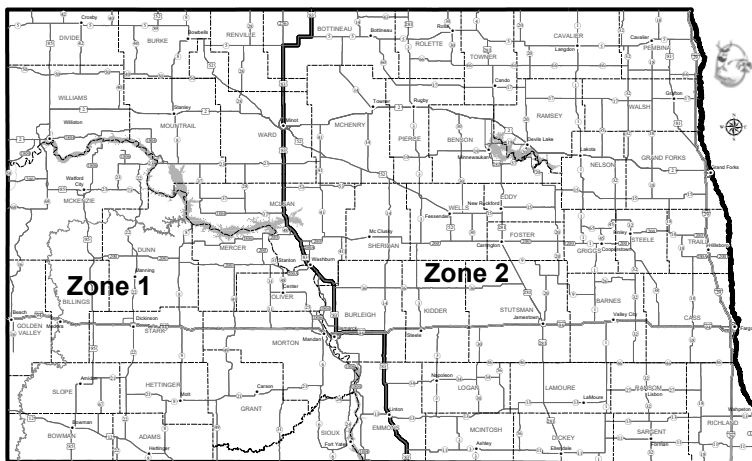
Zone 1 – Firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns, archery equipment (including crossbows), traps – **Opens:** Nov. 7 – **Closes:** March 15

Beginning Nov. 23, bobcats can also be harvested with the use of a cable device (snare) or pursuing with dogs. There is no limit on the number of bobcats that can be taken per person. The pelt and carcass of each bobcat must be presented to Game and Fish Department personnel for inspection and tagging no later than 14 days after the close of the season (March 29, 2027), or prior to sale or transfer of possession, whichever comes first.

Zone 2 – Firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns, archery equipment (including crossbows), traps, cable devices (snare), pursuing with dogs – **Opens:** Nov. 23 – **Closes:** March 15

The limit is one bobcat per person. Trappers must contact the local game warden or Department field office or register online to report their harvest within 12 hours and make arrangements to have the bobcat tagged. Harvest may be no more than 8 bobcats in Zone 2. Once the harvest limit of 8 bobcats is reached, the season will close immediately. The Department will inform the public of this closure through the media. Bobcats taken by USDA Wildlife Services, the Department, private landowners in defense of livestock or personal property, road-killed,

BOBCAT MANAGEMENT ZONES



taken for human safety issues and those taken on Indian land will not count against any harvest limit.

FISHER AND AMERICAN MARTEN

Fisher and marten may only be harvested by North Dakota residents. Fisher may be harvested statewide, except the area on the west by ND Highway 14, on the north Canada, on the east ND Highway 30, and on the south ND highway 5, which is closed. The limit is one fisher and one marten per person. Trappers must contact the local game warden or Department field office or register online to report their harvest within 12 hours and make arrangements to have the fisher or marten tagged. The pelt must be removed from the carcass prior to presenting the fisher to Department personnel for tagging. No fisher or marten pelt will be tagged until the animal is skinned and presented with the entire carcass, including the head. The carcass shall remain the property of the Department. No person, taxidermist or fur dealer shall possess or purchase an untagged fisher or marten. When any part of the animal is mounted, if the tag is removed from the pelt, the tag must be securely fastened to the back or bottom of mount.

Traps, cable devices – Opens: Nov. 23 – **Closes:** Nov. 29

MINK AND MUSKRAT

Muskrat huts may be opened to insert traps or cable devices. However, huts must be restored to their approximate original condition to prevent freeze-up.

Traps – Opens: Oct. 24 – **Closes:** May 10

Beginning March 16, non-floating colony traps must be under at least 2 inches of water and trapping on the outside of any muskrat house or structure is prohibited; traps may be placed completely inside a muskrat house or structure of any size; foothold traps must be submerged under water at all times or have a protective covering (except when used on float sets); body-gripping traps used in a water set can have no more than 2 inches of the trap above water or a protective covering. Beginning May 1, float sets must have a protective covering.

Cable devices – Opens: Nov. 23 – **Closes:** May 10

Mink and muskrat may be captured statewide using legal cable devices.

Beginning March 16, using cable devices on the outside of any muskrat house or structure of any size is prohibited.

Firearms, archery equipment – Opens: Nov. 23 – **Closes:** May 10

Mink and muskrat may be hunted statewide with rimfire cartridges or pre-charged pneumatic air guns of .22 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment (including crossbows).

MOUNTAIN LION

Mountain lions may only be hunted by North Dakota residents. The limit is one mountain lion per person. Any mountain lion, other than kittens (kitten is defined as a mountain lion with visible spots) or females accompanied by kittens, may be harvested during the season. Hunters must contact the local game warden or Department field office or register online to report their harvest within 12 hours and make arrangements to have the mountain lion tagged. The entire mountain lion, including the head, must be presented for inspection and tagging. Legally taken animals will be returned to the hunter following analysis so that the pelt may be removed, but the carcass shall remain the property of the Department. The use of traps or cable devices (snares) to take mountain lions is prohibited. The state will be split into two management zones; Zone 1 and Zone 2. Zone 1 includes land south of ND Highway 1804 from the Montana border to the point where ND Highway 1804 lies directly across Lake Sakakawea from ND Highway 8, crossing Lake Sakakawea then south along ND Highway 8 to ND Highway 200, then west on ND Highway 200 to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to the South Dakota border. Zone 2 is the remainder of the state not described as Zone 1. Each Zone 1 season will have harvest limits. Once these harvest limits are reached, each respective season will close immediately. The Department will inform the public of each closure through the media. Mountain lions taken by USDA Wildlife Services, the Department, private landowners in defense of livestock or personal property, road-killed, incidentally taken by traps or cable devices, taken for human safety issues and those taken on Indian land will not count against any harvest limit.

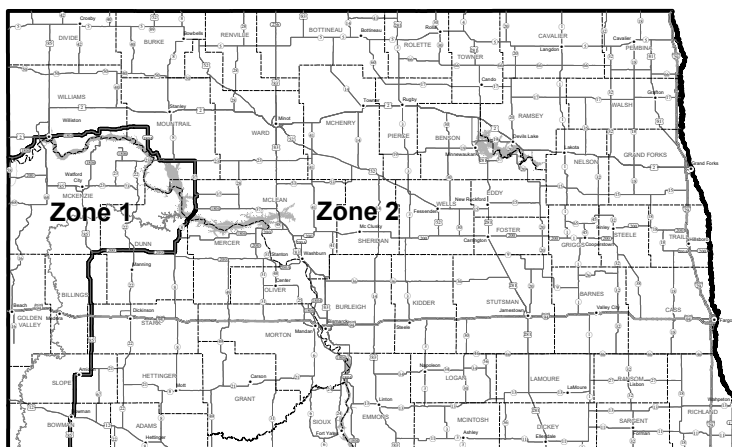
Zone 1 early-season - Opens: Sept. 4 - **Closes:** Nov. 22

Mountain lions may be harvested using firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns and archery equipment (including crossbows). Harvest may be no more than 8 mountain lions.

Zone 1 late-season - Opens: Nov. 23 - **Closes:** March 31

Mountain lions may be harvested using firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns, archery equipment (includes crossbows), and pursuing with dogs. Har-

MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT ZONES



BRIAN HOSEK

vest may be no more than 7 mountain lions or 3 female mountain lions, whichever comes first.

Zone 1 conditional season –

If the harvest limit for the early-season is not reached on or prior to Nov. 22, and after the late-season has been closed (due to harvest limit being reached) for 5 consecutive days, the early-season will reopen until the Zone 1 early-season harvest limit is reached or until March 31. If the late-season closes after March 25, there will not be a Zone 1 conditional season.

Zone 2 – Opens: Sept. 4 – Closes: March 31

Mountain lions may be harvested using firearms, pre-charged pneumatic air guns and archery equipment (including crossbows). Beginning Nov. 23, mountain lions may also be harvested by pursuing with dogs. There is no overall harvest limit for Zone 2.

RIVER OTTER

River otter may only be harvested by North Dakota residents. The limit is one river otter per person. River otters may be harvested statewide. Trappers must contact the local game warden or Department field office or register online to report their harvest within 12 hours and make arrangements to have the river otter tagged. The pelt must be removed from the carcass prior to presenting the river otter to Department personnel for tagging. No river otter pelt will be tagged until the animal is skinned and presented with the entire carcass, including the head. The carcass shall remain property of the Department. No person, taxidermist or fur dealer shall possess or purchase an untagged river otter. When any part of the animal is mounted, if the tag is removed from the pelt, the tag must be securely fastened to the back or bottom of mount.

Traps, cable devices – Opens: Nov. 23 – Closes: Dec. 13

WEASEL

Traps – Opens: Oct. 24 – Closes: March 15

Weasel may be trapped statewide using legal traps.

Firearms, cable devices, archery equipment – Opens: Nov. 23

Closes: March 15

Weasel may be hunted statewide with rimfire cartridges or pre-charged pneumatic air guns of .22 caliber or smaller, and archery equipment (including crossbows). Weasel may be captured statewide using cable devices.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, along with the North Dakota Fur Takers Association, recommends that all traps be visually inspected and all captured animals be removed at no greater than 48-hour intervals, and that rubber gloves be worn for skinning and handling of all furbearers.

NORTH DAKOTA COOPERATIVE FUR HARVESTER EDUCATION PROGRAM



The North Dakota Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program offers a 16-hour course covering all aspects of fur harvest in North Dakota. The course includes both classroom and hands-on learning activities including trap handling and setting, hound hunting, predator calling, fur handling, furbearer biology, fur harvester regulations, and ethics. Students can receive a certification card which will satisfy other states' requirements for mandatory trapper education. The course is free of charge. Check the Game and Fish Department's website (gf.nd.gov/education/fur-harvester) for a list of course dates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hunters and trappers are required to purchase licenses, except any resident, or member of his or her family permanently residing with him or her, may hunt small game, trap or use cable devices during the open season without a license upon land owned or leased by him or her, but otherwise is governed by seasons, limits and all other regulations.

Residents do not need a license to take unprotected species of wildlife (prairie dogs, rabbits, skunks, ground squirrels). Nonresidents hunting only unprotected species of wildlife need only a nongame license.

A resident who is on leave and on active duty with the United States military may hunt small game or trap during the season without a license. Contact the Department for details.

RESIDENT LICENSE ELIGIBILITY

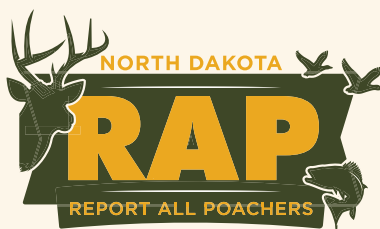
A person who has actually lived in, or maintained his or her legal residence, in North Dakota for the past six months, may qualify for resident licenses, providing he or she does not continue to claim residency in another state. Exceptions:

- **A Waiver of Residency** allows a person who will be living in North Dakota for a minimum of one year or who intends to become a resident to be eligible to purchase nonlottery licenses such as fishing, small game and furbearer at resident prices.
- **Military Exception.** Military personnel in the state on duty or leave or non-resident current North Dakota national guard member are eligible for a similar waiver to the one listed above.
- **Nonresident youth hunting licenses.** A nonresident under age 16 need only purchase a North Dakota resident fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate and a North Dakota resident general game and habitat license to hunt small game and waterfowl except swans and wild turkeys. To be eligible, a nonresident youth may not have turned 16 before Sept. 1 of the year for which the license is issued and must possess a certificate of completion for a certified hunter education course.
- **Nonresident full-time state or tribal college students living in North Dakota and attending** a North Dakota institution of higher learning under the jurisdiction of the Board of Higher Education, a private institution, or a tribal college may qualify to purchase nonlottery resident licenses.

RESIDENT LICENSES	
PREREQUISITE FOR ALL HUNTING LICENSES	
Fishing, Hunting, Furbearer Certificate (<i>need only purchase one per year</i>)	\$2
PREREQUISITE FOR ALL HUNTING LICENSES EXCEPT FURBEARER	
General Game and Habitat License (<i>need only purchase one per year</i>)	\$20
COMBINATION LICENSES	
Combination License (<i>age 16 or older</i>) – includes fishing, general game and habitat, small game and furbearer licenses.	\$62
Veteran Combined Hunting (<i>requires at least 50% service-related disability</i>) includes general game and habitat, small game and furbearer licenses.	\$10
SMALL GAME	
Small Game License (<i>age 16 or older</i>) – required for pheasant, partridge, grouse, squirrel, geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, swan, sandhill crane, crow, snipe, dove and woodcock.	\$20
EARLY CANADA GOOSE	
Early Canada Goose – required of all hunters regardless of age for early Canada Goose season – ages 16 and older also need small game license and beginning Sept. 1 a federal waterfowl stamp.	\$10
SANDHILL CRANE	
Sandhill Crane Permit – small game license also required for those age 16 and older.	\$10
SWAN	
Swan – Swan tags will not be mailed until other required licenses are purchased.	\$10
FURBEARER	
Furbearer (<i>age 16 or older</i>)	\$20
FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP (DUCK STAMP)	
Required beginning Sept. 1 for all hunters ages 16 and older to hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers and coot. Exception: Not required to hunt during spring light goose conservation order. A Federal e-stamp is valid for the duration of the Federal duck stamp issuance year.	\$25
HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP) REGISTRATION	
All hunters regardless of age must obtain a new Harvest Information Program registration number each year for each state in which they hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves and woodcock.	Free
WATERFOWL HABITAT RESTORATION STAMP	
An electronic stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.	\$5

NONRESIDENT LICENSES	
PREREQUISITE FOR ALL HUNTING LICENSES EXCEPT SPRING LIGHT GOOSE AND EARLY CANADA GOOSE LICENSES	
Fishing, Hunting, Furbearer Certificate (<i>need only purchase one per year</i>)	\$5
PREREQUISITE FOR ALL HUNTING LICENSES (EXCEPT FURBEARER, NONGAME, SPRING LIGHT GOOSE AND EARLY CANADA GOOSE)	
General Game and Habitat License (<i>need only purchase one per year</i>)	\$20
SMALL GAME	
Small Game – required for pheasants, partridge, grouse, squirrel, dove, snipe, woodcock and crow. A nonresident must choose between a 14-consecutive-day or two 7-consecutive-day license periods. May purchase more than one license per year. Nonresidents under age 16 can purchase licenses at resident prices.	\$150
SPRING LIGHT GOOSE	
Spring Light Goose – required for all nonresidents for the spring light goose order. Nonresidents under age 16 can purchase licenses at resident prices. Spring light goose license does not count against the regular season license.	\$50
EARLY CANADA GOOSE	
Early Canada Goose – required of all hunters regardless of age for the early Canada goose season. Ages 16 and older also need a federal waterfowl stamp beginning Sept. 1. Nonresidents under age 16 can purchase license at resident prices. Early Canada goose license does not count against the regular season nonresident license.	\$50
SANDHILL CRANE	
Sandhill Crane – small game or waterfowl license also required.	\$30
SWAN	
Swan – waterfowl license also required. Swan tags will not be mailed until other required licenses are purchased.	\$50
NONGAME	
Nongame – allows taking unprotected species such as prairie dog, skunk, rabbits and ground squirrels.	\$25
FURBEARER AND NONGAME	
Furbearer and Nongame – allows taking unprotected species and for hunting fox and coyote.	\$50
Nonresident Reciprocal Trapping License – North Dakota offers a reciprocal trapping (includes snaring) license to nonresidents whose home state allows North Dakota residents to trap. Nonresidents having this license may not take bobcats, mountain lions, fishers or river otters.	\$350

WATERFOWL	
Waterfowl – required for duck, goose, swan, mergansers and coots. May purchase only one waterfowl license per year. Nonresidents under age 16 can purchase license at resident prices.	
A zone-restricted license that requires selection of hunting zones (see zone map) according to the following restrictions:	\$153
1) Nonresidents may hunt for up to 14 days using two different designated zones for two 7-day periods; 2) 7-day periods do not have to be used consecutively and can be used two times totaling 14 days unless zones are run concurrently; 3) Nonresidents, who only hunt waterfowl in North Dakota for one week, and want to maximize hunting opportunities in the state, can choose to run their two 7-day periods at the same time. To do this, hunters can choose any two zones for the same 7-day period.	
FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP (DUCK STAMP)	
Required beginning Sept. 1 for all hunters ages 16 and older to hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, brant and coot. <i>Exception: Not required to hunt during spring light goose conservation order. A Federal e-stamp is valid for the duration of the Federal duck stamp issuance year.</i>	\$25
HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP) REGISTRATION	
All hunters regardless of age must obtain a new Harvest Information Program registration number each year for each state in which they hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves and woodcock.	Free
WATERFOWL HABITAT RESTORATION STAMP	
An electronic stamp is required to hunt waterfowl.	\$5



RAP (REPORT ALL POACHERS) PROGRAM. This program encourages people to report wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer, and receive monetary rewards for convictions based on their information. Anonymous callers will be given a special code number and are not required to give their name. Rewards range from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the nature and seriousness of the crime. **Call 701-328-9921.** Call this number only to report game and fish violations. The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to RAP, Box 1091, Bismarck, ND, 58502-1091.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY

Hunter Education Requirement – Hunters born after Dec. 31, 1961 must have passed a certified state or provincial hunter education course in order to purchase a North Dakota hunting license. Exceptions: Persons who hunt only on land they own or operate, and youth under age 12 may hunt if they have appropriate licenses. In addition, individuals who are 12 years of age and older who have not taken the hunter education course may receive an apprentice hunter validation that enables them to hunt small game (includes waterfowl) for one license year.

Minimum Age – There is no minimum age for hunting small game, waterfowl or furbearers, but anyone under age 15 afield with firearms must be licensed and under direct supervision (must be able to have unaided verbal contact) of a parent, guardian or adult authorized by their parent or guardian.

Licenses – Valid in either paper or electronic format. No person may give away, barter or sell an issued license. Licenses are nontransferable.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

All migratory bird hunters must register annually with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program in each state in which they hunt ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves and woodcock. Hunters who do not HIP register when they buy a North Dakota license, can add it later through the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov. HIP registration is a cooperative program designed to determine a sample of hunters from which to measure the harvest of migratory birds for management purposes.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

“Game” includes any of those species of small game, or furbearers as defined in Section 20.1-01-02 of the North Dakota Century Code.

“Small Game” includes all game birds (including waterfowl) and tree squirrels.

“Upland Game” includes sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, pheasants, ruffed grouse and tree squirrels.

“Migratory Game Birds” includes ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, dove and woodcock. All hunters must be HIP registered.

“Waterfowl” includes ducks, geese, swans, mergansers and coots.

“Daily Bag Limit” (Daily Limit) is the maximum number of a particular game that one hunter, legally licensed by this state, may take or kill during a single hunting day, within the boundaries of this state.

“Possession Limit” is the maximum number of a particular game species that a hunter, legally licensed by this state, may have in his/her actual possession during any phase of any single hunting trip, venture, or expedition of more than one day. No more than one daily limit may be taken on any one day. The possession limit at one's personal permanent residence, except for waterfowl and migratory game birds, is not limited.

“Possession Limit for Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds” is the max-

imum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area (typically a state, Indian reservation or a hunting unit or zone within a state) for which a possession limit is prescribed.

"Migratory Bird Preservation Facility" is any person or business for hire or other consideration, taxidermist, cold storage or locker plant facility, or hunting club which receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

"Possession of Shot other than Nontoxic Shot" means in the gun, or in the pockets, or within reach while in the process of hunting. See nontoxic shot regulations below.

"Canada geese" includes all Canada geese, cackling geese and any other geese except white-fronted and light geese.

"Light geese" include snow geese, blue geese and Ross's geese.

NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS

The possession or use of shot other than federally approved nontoxic shot is prohibited while hunting ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, tundra swans, mergansers, snipe and coot statewide. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov.

Nontoxic shot is required for all hunting on all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, including federal refuges and waterfowl production areas. This regulation applies to all hunters using shotguns, except while hunting turkeys and big game. These shot requirements are in addition to current statewide nontoxic shot requirements for migratory birds as listed above.

LEGAL FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Game Birds and Waterfowl – Only firearms no smaller than .410 gauge nor larger than 10 gauge loaded with shot and capable of holding no more than three shells, legal archery equipment, and raptors may be used. Pistols may not be used to take migratory game birds. Nontoxic shot is required for some species and on some lands. Raptors may be used only by those possessing a falconry permit.

A bow must be pulled, held and released by hand. Any release aid may be used providing it is hand operated, the shooter supports the draw weight of the bow, and the release is not attached to any part of the bow other than at the bowstring. Telescopic sights, range finding devices, or other electronic devices attached to the bow, or the arrow, are not permitted (exception: battery-powered or electronically lighted sights that do not project light, lighted nocks and recording devices which do not aid in range finding, sighting or shooting the bow are permitted). Verifiers are legal. Handheld range-finding devices are legal. Arrows capable of causing damage or injury in excess of that inflicted by the cutting edges of the broadhead, are prohibited while hunting small game with a bow (e.g., explosive arrow points, arrows tipped with drugs or chemicals, and pneumatic or hydraulic shafts are illegal). Arrows must be at least 24 inches long and have at least 2 untrimmed feathers, or not less than 5 trimmed feathers when shooting at birds in flight.

Blind individuals, paraplegics and/or those having lost the use of one or both arms, having a permit from the Game and Fish director to hunt with a crossbow, may use a crossbow during small game seasons. Contact the Department for additional information on crossbow regulations.

AIRCRAFT, BOATS, MOTOR-DRIVEN VEHICLES

It is illegal to kill, chase, harass, flush, drive, concentrate, rally, raise, stir up or disturb game with all types of aircraft, manned or unmanned.

It is illegal to shoot with bow and arrow or firearm while in or on a motor-driven vehicle.

No person may carry a firearm with a cartridge in the chamber in or on a motor-driven vehicle while hunting, except as otherwise provided by law. The entire cylinder of a revolver is considered the chamber, requiring the revolver to be completely unloaded. Handguns with removable magazines or clips must have the magazine or clips removed from the firearm if the magazine or clip contains any loaded shells. It is illegal to carry any muzzleloading firearm in or on a motor-driven vehicle with a cap or primer in place or powder in the flash pan.

Landowners may be more restrictive on their own property. In general, driving off established roads and trails is not allowed on state and federal lands. For more detailed information check with the managing agency.

Driving off established roads and trails on private land is legal for the hunting of waterfowl and cranes; legal for the hunting of upland game with written permission from the landowner or lessee who actively farms or ranches the land. Mallard Island and deTrobriand Island within Lake Sakakawea are closed to the use of all motor-driven vehicles and aircraft. On all other wildlife management areas owned or managed by the Department, the use of all motor-driven vehicles is restricted to those constructed roads, well worn trails, and parking areas normally used by passenger cars. Motor-driven vehicle use on wildlife management areas is further restricted or prohibited where posted as such.

Established roads or trails do not include temporary trails made for agricultural purposes.

No person may use motor-driven vehicles on North Dakota Game and Fish Department Conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) property without permission from the landowner, or as otherwise signed by the Department. These areas have been entrusted to the public for walking access through written agreements with private landowners. The boundaries of these properties are identified by large yellow triangular signs.

Motorboats are legal for going to and from hunting areas. Migratory game birds may be taken from a floating craft, excluding a sink box; however if the craft is motorized, it must be at rest with the motor turned off.

All watercraft must have aboard a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver for each occupant. Additionally, any watercraft powered by any motor (including electric motors) must be registered and numbered (licensed) through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, or for nonresidents – through the state where principally used.

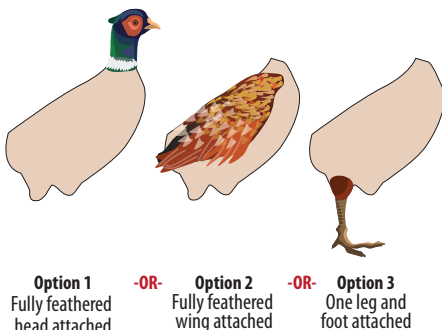
IDENTIFICATION

One fully feathered wing or the fully feathered head of all waterfowl, snipe, dove, crane and woodcock; and one leg and foot, or the fully feathered head, or the fully feathered wing of pheasant, Hungarian partridge and all grouse shall remain attached to such game during transportation or shipment until it reaches the hunter's legal residence or it is processed to be immediately consumed.

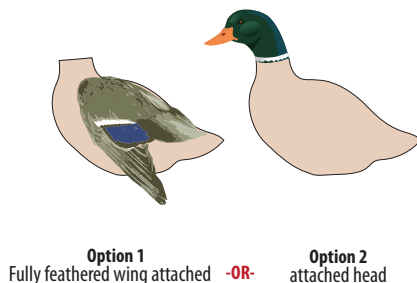
TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

License holders must accompany their game, or parts thereof, during transportation. Game may be shipped by common carrier in receipt of proper bill of lading.

Upland Game Birds



Migratory Game Birds



ing. No resident of the state may ship game or parts thereof out of state without a permit from the Department. Any resident, other than a licensed furbuyer complying with Section 201-03-23 of the North Dakota Century Code who ships or transports such hides or furs, shall tag each hide or fur with the name of the person having taken it and that person's furbearer license number. Except for legally gifted game, it is illegal to possess or transport another's game animal, or parts thereof, without the license holder accompanying or as otherwise permitted.

No person shall leave or store any game birds at any place other than that person's legal residence unless each piece of game is tagged with the owner's signature and address, date taken, number and species of game, and license number of the person who harvested the game. The packaging of game birds away from a person's legal residence must be in a manner that the species and number of game birds in each package is easily determined.

Game may be gifted to another, however this does not allow a person to exceed a daily limit. Any gifted game to be transported must be tagged with the above information and display sex and species identification as required. Termination of possession can only be accomplished by: **(1)** gifting of legally harvested game; **(2)** by consuming the game.

Nonresidents may transport or ship from the state a possession limit of upland game. No one may possess in the field, transport or ship at any one time, more than a possession limit of upland game or migratory game birds. 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 each species contained in the package.

POSTING AND TRESPASS

Only the owner or tenant, or an individual authorized by the owner, may post land either electronically or by placing physical signs giving notice that no hunting is permitted on the land. The name of the person posting the land must appear on each physical sign in legible characters. Physical signs must be readable from the outside of the land and must be placed conspicuously not more than 880 yards (one-half mile) apart. For land entirely enclosed by a fence or other enclosure, posting of signs at or on all gates through the fence or enclosure constitutes a posting of all the enclosed land.

It is illegal to hunt on posted lands without permission from the owner or tenant. Hunting on posted land without permission can be prosecuted even if the land is not posted to the letter of the law. Trespass is a criminal violation punishable by suspension of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for a period of at least one year.

It is illegal to hunt upon the premises of another within 440 yards (one-quarter mile) of any occupied building without the consent of the person occupying the building. This does not prohibit hunting on land owned by neighbors (private or public) even if the land is less than 440 yards (one-quarter mile) from the occupied building.

Any person may enter upon legally posted land (without a firearm or bow) to recover game shot or killed on land where he/she had a lawful right to hunt.

It is illegal to hunt in unharvested cereal and oilseed crops, including sprouted winter wheat, alfalfa, clover and other grasses grown for seed, without the owner's consent.

It is illegal to deface, take down or destroy posting signs.

Failure to close gates upon exit or entry is a criminal violation, punishable by forfeiture of hunting licenses.

Written permission must be secured from landowners or operators before placing or setting any traps or cable devices on private land, including PLOTS lands. The owner or operator may determine the length of time permission is granted.

ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Do not hunt on road rights-of-way unless you are certain that they are open to public use. Most road rights-of-way are under control of the adjacent landowner and are closed to hunting when the adjacent land is posted closed to hunting.

WANTON WASTE OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS AND UPLAND GAME

No person shall kill, cripple, waste, destroy, spoil or abandon the edible flesh of any migratory game or upland game without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird/animal, and retain it in his/her actual custody, at the place where

taken and between that place and either (a) his or her personal permanent residence; (b) taxidermist; or (c) a common carrier. Edible flesh means the breast meat of any game bird or the hind legs and lower back of a squirrel.

FIRE DANGER INDEX

The fire danger index provides an indication of wildland fire potential. Fire danger indexes are calculated considering temperature, humidity, wind speed, cloud cover and vegetative condition, and are rated as Low, Medium, High, Very High or Extreme. Fires are more likely to occur on higher index days. Certain outdoor activities may be prohibited when a fire danger index is considered Very High or Extreme. Hunters are asked to be aware of current fire danger indexes. Updated information is available through ndresponse.gov, or from a county sheriff's office.

CLOSED OR RESTRICTED AREAS

PLOTS Areas – In accordance with N.D.C.C. 20.1-08-04.9, nonresidents may not hunt any game from Oct. 10-16, on North Dakota Game and Fish Department wildlife management areas or on Conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) areas. Exception: Nonresidents hunting on PLOTS land they own.

Wildlife management areas so posted, refuges, sanctuaries, national parks and historic sites shall be closed to the hunting and trapping of all species. (Exception: small game hunting, and furbearer hunting and trapping, may be permitted at times and on those areas of federally owned refuges designated by the refuge manager.) For additional regulations on federal refuges, contact refuge headquarters.

The Minot and Grand Forks air bases are closed to hunting.

Nelson Lake in Oliver County is open to waterfowl hunting under special restrictions. Waterfowl hunting will only be allowed along the north shoreline in the N 1/2 of section 32 and the northwest part of the lake in sections 29 and 30. All other parts of the lake are closed to hunting. No open water hunting from a boat is allowed. All hunting must be done from shore.

School trust lands are open to nonvehicular public access, including hunting, unless posted with ND Department of Trust Lands signs. Trapping is allowed, if the current surface lessee gives written permission. By giving permission, the lessee is made aware that legal traps and snares could be in the area. The only established trails on Department of Trust Lands available for public use are those that are signed with Game and Fish Department trail markers. See the ND Department of Trust Lands surface and minerals management page at land.nd.gov.

State law allows the governor to close or postpone a hunting season upon reasonable notice through the media if climatic conditions create a fire hazard.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

- An individual must harvest his or her own limit.
- It is illegal to go afield with a firearm or archery equipment while intoxicated.
- It is illegal to possess or use an electronic or recorded call while hunting migratory game birds.

- Use of artificial light, night vision, thermal vision or infrared light for locating or hunting game is prohibited, except for beaver, raccoon, fox and coyote during the open night hunting season on the animal.
- Hunters may retrieve game that has fallen into a state wildlife refuge if they leave their firearms outside the boundary. They may not retrieve game that has fallen into a federal wildlife refuge unless there has been a retrieving zone designated by the refuge manager.
- It is illegal to shoot harmless birds. All hawks, owls, falcons and eagles are protected by state and federal law.
- It is illegal to use live ducks or geese as decoys.
- No person may possess or sell any live wildlife or release any wildlife into the wild without a permit from the Department.
- Trail cameras may not be installed on private property without written permission from the landowner, or an individual authorized by the owner, and the camera must have an equipment registration number, or the individuals name, address and telephone number.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The following is a synopsis of federal regulations that pertain to the hunting of migratory game birds. Persons requiring more information should go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at fws.gov, to find a complete version of 50 CFR Part 20, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 701-250-4418 or 701-255-0593, or a local national wildlife refuge office.

Migratory birds include all migratory game birds and most birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared dove, mute swan, and upland game birds, which are protected by state laws. A complete list of protected migratory birds is found in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13.

Daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of 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 (typically a hunting unit or zone) for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

Aggregate daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area (typically a second state, Indian reservation, hunting unit or zone within a state) in which taking occurs.

Opening day of a season – No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field possession limit – No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies,

of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his/her automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his/her 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.

Aggregate possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area (typically a second state, Indian reservation, hunting unit or zone with a state) for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

Personal abode means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance; with a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take birds from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

HUNTING BY NONTRIBAL MEMBERS ON NORTH DAKOTA INDIAN RESERVATIONS

If an individual hunts exclusively on Indian lands within an Indian reservation, a tribal license is required and a state hunting license is not required. Hunting on nontribal lands within an Indian reservation requires a state hunting license. Game taken legally with a tribal license within an Indian reservation may be possessed and transported anywhere in North Dakota.

Portions of some units/zones are located on Indian reservations. Contact reservation tribal offices for more information:

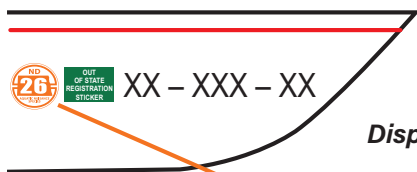
- **Fort Berthold.** Game and Fish Department, 404 Frontage Road, New Town, ND 58763, 701-627-4760.
- **Standing Rock.** Game and Fish Department, Box 549, Fort Yates, ND 58538, 701-854-7236.
- **Turtle Mountain.** Department of Natural Resources, Box 570, Belcourt, ND 58316, 701-477-2604.
- **Spirit Lake.** Fish and Wildlife Department, Box 359, Fort Totten, ND 58335, 701-766-1243.

EFFECTS OF HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia and Waterfowl Hunters

Hypothermia, the loss of body heat to the water, is probably the greatest cause of water-related deaths. Often the cause of death is listed as drowning; but, most often the primary cause is hypothermia and the secondary cause is drowning. After an individual has succumbed to hypothermia, he/she will lose consciousness and then drown.

Water Temperature (degrees F.)	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
32.5	Under 15 minutes	Under 15 to 45 minutes
32.5 to 40	15 to 30 minutes	30 to 90 minutes
40 to 50	30 to 60 minutes	1 to 3 hours
50 to 60	1 to 2 hours	1 to 6 hours
60 to 70	2 to 7 hours	2 to 40 hours
70 to 80	3 to 12 hours	3 hours to indefinitely
Over 80	Indefinitely	Indefinitely



Display of ANS Sticker



HOW TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ANS

Aquatic Nuisance Species Sticker

All motorized watercraft not licensed in this state and operated on North Dakota waters must annually obtain a valid, nonrefundable aquatic nuisance species (ANS) sticker. ANS stickers are valid for one calendar year. ANS stickers may only be purchased through the Department's website.

This ANS sticker must be placed on the starboard side of the watercraft within 6 inches of the registration number and displayed within 10 days of purchase.

Each licensed watercraft is listed on the purchase receipt. A copy of the purchase receipt is proof of validation until the sticker is received via postal mail.

Remember to properly Clean, Drain and Dry your equipment to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic nuisance species.

1. CLEAN

State law requires removal of all plants and aquatic organisms from all equipment (boats, trailers, fishing gear, duck decoys, etc.) before leaving a waterbody. Removal of mud is also recommended.

2. DRAIN

State law requires draining of all water from watercraft and other equipment prior to leaving a waterbody. Drain plugs and draining devices must also be left out and open during transport.

3. DRY

Although not required by North Dakota law, it's a good idea to allow equipment to dry completely, or disinfect with high pressure hot water (140 degrees F for 10 seconds of contact) before using again.

For complete regulations visit: gf.nd.gov/ans.

BOATING SAFETY FOR HUNTERS

State Laws

- All boats must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device for each occupant, and those boats over 16 feet in length must also have a U.S. Coast Guard approved throwable personal flotation device. Boat occupants age 10 and under must wear their life jacket while the boat is in operation.
- No person 12 through 15 years of age may operate a motorboat or personal watercraft propelled by a motor of more than 10 horsepower unless the operator is accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older, or the operator has taken and passed a Department approved boating course.
- For a complete list of boating regulations in North Dakota, contact the Game and Fish Department.

Boating Tips for Hunters

- Life jackets save lives. Wear it, don't just bring it!
- Cold water immersion is life threatening. Dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature.
- Do not operate vessels in overloaded conditions. Sudden shifts in weight by dogs or hunters can result in capsizing.
- Check the weather to avoid encountering conditions that exceed your skills or boat capabilities.
- Introduce your dog to hunting from a boat prior to hunting season.
- Carry a cell phone or emergency beacon and avoid hunting alone.
- File a float plan and always tell someone when you plan to return.

Life Jackets for Hunters

Life jackets are available in a wide variety of styles and colors that meet the demands of hunters.

Life jackets can increase survival time because of the insulation they provide. Naturally, the warmer the water the less insulation one will require. When operating in cold waters (below 40 degrees F) consideration should be given to using a coat or jacket-style as they cover more of the body than the vest-style.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES

The sunrise and sunset times at Bismarck are noted below. The sun rises and sets one minute later for each 12.5 miles west of Bismarck and one minute earlier for each 12.5 miles east of Bismarck.

DATE	SR	SS	DATE	SR	SS	DATE	SR	SS	DATE	SR	SS
Aug 15	6:39	8:55	SEP 21	7:27	7:44	OCT 28	8:18	6:35	DEC 3	8:08	4:57
Aug 16	6:41	8:53	SEP 22	7:28	7:42	OCT 29	8:19	6:33	DEC 4	8:09	4:57
Aug 17	6:42	8:51	SEP 23	7:30	7:40	OCT 30	8:21	6:32	DEC 5	8:10	4:57
Aug 18	6:43	8:49	SEP 24	7:31	7:38	OCT 31	8:22	6:30	DEC 6	8:11	4:56
Aug 19	6:44	8:48	SEP 25	7:32	7:36	Central Daylight Time			DEC 7	8:12	4:56
Aug 20	6:46	8:46	SEP 26	7:34	7:34	NOV 1	7:24	5:29	DEC 8	8:13	4:56
Aug 21	6:47	8:44	SEP 27	7:35	7:32	NOV 2	7:25	5:27	DEC 9	8:14	4:56
Aug 22	6:48	8:43	SEP 28	7:36	7:30	NOV 3	7:27	5:26	DEC 10	8:15	4:56
Aug 23	6:50	8:41	SEP 29	7:38	7:28	NOV 4	7:28	5:24	DEC 11	8:16	4:56
Aug 24	6:51	8:39	SEP 30	7:39	7:26	NOV 5	7:30	5:23	DEC 12	8:17	4:56
Aug 25	6:52	8:35	OCT 1	7:40	7:24	NOV 6	7:31	5:21	DEC 13	8:18	4:56
Aug 26	6:54	8:35	OCT 2	7:42	7:22	NOV 7	7:33	5:20	DEC 14	8:18	4:56
Aug 27	6:55	8:33	OCT 3	7:43	7:20	NOV 8	7:34	5:19	DEC 15	8:19	4:57
Aug 28	6:56	8:31	OCT 4	7:44	7:18	NOV 9	7:35	5:17	DEC 16	8:20	4:57
Aug 29	6:57	8:30	OCT 5	7:46	7:16	NOV 10	7:37	5:16	DEC 17	8:21	4:57
Aug 30	6:59	8:28	OCT 6	7:47	7:14	NOV 11	7:38	5:15	DEC 18	8:21	4:57
Aug 31	7:00	8:26	OCT 7	7:48	7:12	NOV 12	7:40	5:14	DEC 19	8:22	4:58
SEP 1	7:01	8:24	OCT 8	7:50	7:10	NOV 13	7:41	5:13	DEC 20	8:22	4:58
SEP 2	7:03	8:22	OCT 9	7:51	7:09	NOV 14	7:43	5:11	DEC 21	8:23	4:58
SEP 3	7:04	8:20	OCT 10	7:52	7:07	NOV 15	7:44	5:10	DEC 22	8:23	4:59
SEP 4	7:05	8:18	OCT 11	7:54	7:05	NOV 16	7:46	5:09	DEC 23	8:24	5:00
SEP 5	7:06	8:16	OCT 12	7:55	7:03	NOV 17	7:47	5:08	DEC 24	8:24	5:00
SEP 6	7:08	8:14	OCT 13	7:57	7:01	NOV 18	7:48	5:07	DEC 25	8:25	5:01
SEP 7	7:09	8:12	OCT 14	7:58	6:59	NOV 19	7:50	5:06	DEC 26	8:25	5:02
SEP 8	7:10	8:10	OCT 15	7:59	6:57	NOV 20	7:51	5:05	DEC 27	8:25	5:02
SEP 9	7:12	8:08	OCT 16	8:01	6:55	NOV 21	7:53	5:05	DEC 28	8:25	5:03
SEP 10	7:13	8:06	OCT 17	8:02	6:54	NOV 22	7:54	5:04	DEC 29	8:26	5:04
SEP 11	7:14	8:04	OCT 18	8:04	6:52	NOV 23	7:55	5:03	DEC 30	8:26	5:05
SEP 12	7:15	8:02	OCT 19	8:05	6:50	NOV 24	7:57	5:02	DEC 31	8:26	5:06
SEP 13	7:17	8:00	OCT 20	8:06	6:48	NOV 25	7:58	5:01	2027		
SEP 14	7:18	7:58	OCT 21	8:08	6:47	NOV 26	7:59	5:01	JAN 1	8:26	5:07
SEP 15	7:19	7:56	OCT 22	8:09	6:45	NOV 27	8:01	5:00	JAN 2	8:26	5:08
SEP 16	7:21	7:54	OCT 23	8:11	6:43	NOV 28	8:02	5:00	JAN 3	8:26	5:09
SEP 17	7:22	7:52	OCT 24	8:12	6:41	NOV 29	8:03	4:59	JAN 4	8:26	5:10
SEP 18	7:23	7:50	OCT 25	8:14	6:40	NOV 30	8:04	4:59			
SEP 19	7:25	7:48	OCT 26	8:15	6:38	DEC 1	8:05	4:58			
SEP 20	7:26	7:46	OCT 27	8:17	6:36	DEC 2	8:07	4:58			



701-328-9921



This program provides people the opportunity to report wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer, and to receive monetary rewards for convictions based on their information. Anonymous callers will be given a special code number and are not required to give their name. Rewards range from \$50 to several hundred dollars depending upon the nature and seriousness of the crime. Call 701-328-9921 only to report Game and Fish violations. The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to RAP, Box 1091, Bismarck, ND, 58502-1091.

TOM ROSTER'S 2016 NONTOXI

Proven Nontoxic Loads For Waterfowl, Doves, & Upland Game Birds¹ <i>Vel. Range Tested: 1,225 – 1,700 FPS</i> ACTIVITY	Observed Hunters' Typical Shooting Range During Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY At The Distances Listed In The Second Column
Large Geese At Long Range Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65 50-70	Steel BBB to T HEVI-Shot 2 to B
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2 to B
Medium/Small Geese Long Range Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65 50-65	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel 2 to BB HEVI-Shot 4 to 2
Large Ducks At Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65 45-65	Steel 2 to 1 HEVI-Shot 4
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4
Medium Ducks Over Decoys Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 3 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4
Small Ducks Over Decoys Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 4 HEVI-Shot 6
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50 20-50	Steel 3 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4; HEVI-Shot 6
Mourning Doves	20-45 20-45	Steel 8 to 7 HEVI-Shot 7½
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 8 to 7
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the lethality data bases for certain of the 16 steel-only pheasant shooting test (1999) plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for the 1999-2015 period. The following table summarizes the best all-around performance for taking pheasants; steel #BBB (.190") & HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking pheasants; steel #2 & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants.

¹ These findings are derived from testing 2¾" 28 gauge; 3" 20 ga.; 2¾", 3" & 3½" 12 ga.; & 3½" 10 ga.

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IC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE[®]

Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) at Distance (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and are harder than traditional steel pellets.
1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified	
1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified, Full	
1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified	
1-1/2	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified, Full	
1-1/8	1-2	60-65	Light Modified, Modified	
1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
1-1/8	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full	
1-1/4	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full	
3/4 - 1	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
1-1/8	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
1	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
1-1/8	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
1	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
1-1/8	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
1	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
1-1/8	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full	
5/8 - 3/4	1-2	200-210	IC-8's/LM-7's (20-30 Yds); Mod>30 Yd	
3/4	1-2	200-210	I.C. (20-30 Yds); Light Mod (30-45 Yd)	
5/8 - 3/4	1-2	200-210	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified	
1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full	

U.S. steel vs lead waterfowl & dove shooting tests published between 1968 & 2014 & one or birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP Org. taking geese; steel #3 (.140") & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for long-necked pheasants; & steel 7's (.100") the best all-around performance for taking doves. ga. steel loads; plus 2 3/4" 28 ga.; 2 3/4" & 3" 20 ga.; and 2 3/4" & 3" 12 ga. HEVI-Shot loads. Roster, 1190 Lynnewood, Klamath Falls, OR, USA 97601. tomroster@charter.net

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT MAIN OFFICE AND DISTRICT OFFICES

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Email: ndgfd@nd.gov
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3001 E. Main Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501
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DEVILS LAKE

7928 45th St. NE
Devils Lake, ND
58301-8501
701-662-3617

DICKINSON

225 30th Ave. SW
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-227-7431

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1851 23rd Ave. NE
Harvey, ND 58341
701-328-6332

RIVERDALE

406 Dakota Ave.
Riverdale, ND 58565
701-328-1190

JAMESTOWN

3320 E. Lakeside Rd.
Jamestown, ND 58401
701-253-6480

WILLISTON

5303 Front St. W
Williston, ND 58801
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**For additional hunting information
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