

# 2010

## W I S C O N S I N

# Migratory Bird Regulations



This pamphlet is a summary of Wisconsin's migratory bird hunting regulations. For a complete set of laws, please refer to the Wisconsin State Statutes and the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources.

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### Support Ethical Responsible Hunting • Report Violations

**CALL:** 1-800-Tip-WDNR (1-800-847-9367) or #367 from your cell phone (free for U.S. Cellular customers)

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential

**Note:** this is not an information number. **TEXT:** Text a tip to 847411 (only available from 7 am - 10 pm). Standard text rates apply.

**EMAIL:** [le.hotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:le.hotline@wisconsin.gov)

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This publication is available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Call (608) 266-8204 for more information.

PUB-WM-010 2010

## Dear Migratory Game Bird Hunter,

It's August as I write this letter and most of Wisconsin is wet and that is good news going into the fall waterfowl season. While Wisconsin was very dry this spring, later rains provided good brood habitat and should provide good hunting conditions this fall. Duck hunters often focus on spring breeding conditions and duck numbers. While breeding success is important to fall waterfowl numbers, your hunting experience may have little to do with spring conditions. Three factors are important to the number of waterfowl you see this fall; fall water conditions, weather patterns and the time you spend scouting. The best waterfowl hunters are those that spend time scouting locations before and during the season.

Some information to consider as you plan for your fall waterfowl hunting:

- Habitat in Canada and the US prairies was very good and duck populations were 21% above average.
- 2010 WI breeding duck numbers were average for mallards and wood ducks but many blue-winged teal went west to breed this year because of better water conditions. With good summer rains, reports of good duck production are coming in from around the state.
- Please look at these websites and spend time in the marsh to improve your duck ID:
  - <http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/birds/duckdist/index.htm>
  - <http://www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowlgallery.aspx>
- In spring 2010, Canada goose breeding numbers were higher in Ontario and Wisconsin than in 2009.
- Over 80% of Wisconsin's duck hunters hunt the same location every year. Wisconsin has 5 million acres of wetlands, 15,000 lakes and major river systems so be creative in 2010 and challenge yourself to try a new location to duck hunt!

The Wisconsin waterfowl hunter is one of the most dedicated and involved conservationists in the nation, contributing time and money to waterfowl management and habitat restoration. Wisconsin is a great waterfowl hunting state and one of the reasons is your enthusiasm and dedication to the sport. Thank you for your enthusiasm and keep up the great work.

I look forward to seeing you in the marsh this fall. Have a safe and enjoyable season.

Kent Van Horn  
Migratory Game Bird Ecologist

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## What's New

- ★ The daily bag limit in 2010 will be 2 pintails because of changes in federal harvest options for pintail seasons.
- ★ Changes made in 2009 to the definition of open water are in effect this year. See page 6.
- ★ All waterfowl hunting is prohibited at Mead Wildlife Management Area prior to the opening of the duck season, except during the two-day youth hunt weekend on Sept. 18 & 19. Also, waterfowl hunting hours will end at 1:00 p.m. daily at Mead during the first 16 days of the duck season after the opening weekend. For more information please visit the following website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife\\_areas/mead.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/mead.htm).
- ★ All hunting of migratory game birds, including waterfowl and mourning doves, is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. at Lake Mills/Zeloski Marsh Wildlife Area from September 1 through the 16th day after the opening weekend of the duck season (except that hunting is allowed during the afternoon on the opening weekend of duck season).

## License Information

- **License requirement.** A valid license for hunting small game is required to hunt **all** migratory game birds (ducks, geese, brant, woodcock, mourning dove, coots, rails, snipe or moorhens) in Wisconsin. You may purchase licenses from any license agent by phone at 1-877-WI-LICENSE, or on the Internet at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (\$3 handling fee). See license options on page 5.
- **Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration requirement.** (FREE) Required annually by everyone hunting any species of migratory game birds to estimate the total harvest for the year. Your registration puts you on a national list of hunters and you may receive a log to record your harvest. Even if you registered in 2009, you will need to register again in 2010. You can register when purchasing your license or at any time prior to hunting migratory game birds.
- Persons born on or after January 1, 1973, must have a Hunter Education certificate to purchase any hunting license, unless they will be hunting in compliance with the hunting mentorship program (see below).
- First time Wisconsin hunter education graduates may use their certificate in place of a small game license and state waterfowl stamp, during the year their certificate was issued if they are at least 10 years of age.
- Persons younger than 10 years old may not hunt or purchase a hunting license. Persons ages 10 and 11, or older, who have not completed hunter education may hunt only through the hunting mentorship program (see below). Persons age 12 and 13 years old must be accompanied and in visual **and** voice contact by a parent or guardian (18 years or older) while hunting.
- The **hunting mentorship program** allows a person at least 10 years of age to obtain a hunting license and hunt without the need to first take hunter education, **provided the hunter does the following:** hunts within arms reach of a mentor regardless of the age of the hunter or the mentor; possesses the appropriate hunting license, permits and tags; complies with all other hunting laws, seasons and bag limits. **Mentors must:** be at least 18 years old; be a hunter education graduate unless born before January 1, 1973 or have completed basic training with the Armed Forces; be the hunter's parent or guardian, or have the permission of the hunter's parent/guardian before acting as a mentor for a person under 18; possess a current hunting year's hunting license (type of license does not matter, unless they will also be attempting to harvest game). Only **ONE** firearm, bow or crossbow (if eligible for a crossbow permit) can be possessed jointly between the hunter and the mentor if the hunter is either age 10 or 11, or was born on or after January 1, 1973 and has not yet taken and passed hunter education. **Note:** 10 and 11 year olds may only hunt under these mentorship rules, even if they already completed hunter education.
- **Stamp requirement.** Any person 16 years of age or older who wishes to hunt *ducks, geese and brant* must possess both a **2010 Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp** privilege noted on the person's valid hunting license **AND** a **2010 Federal Migratory Bird Stamp**. *Note: neither of these stamps is required for hunting coot, moorhen, rail, mourning dove or woodcock.*
  1. The 2010 Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp (\$7) is available at DNR Service Centers and license agents.
  2. The 2010 Federal Migratory Bird Stamp can be purchased for \$15 at U.S. Post Offices, some U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices and online at [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Through a pilot program, the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp may also be purchased at license agents and DNR Service Centers for \$17.50. This stamp will not be available via the DNR phone service or website. If purchased at a license agent or Service Center, the hunter will receive a temporary stamp valid for 45 days, and will be mailed the actual stamp within 45 days.
- **Canada Goose Permit requirement.** Required by everyone hunting Canada geese in Wisconsin. This permit is valid for only one season or one zone as shown on the permit. (\$3 application fee for early Canada goose season and regular season Exterior zone, Horicon or Collins zone permits).
- **Resident Licenses:** Small Game—\$18; Jr. Small Game (ages 12-17)—\$9; Small Game (ages 10-11)—\$7; Sr. Citizen Small Game (age 65 or older)—\$9; Sports—\$60; Jr. Sports—\$35; Conservation Patron—\$165 and Jr. Patron—\$75 (Patron licenses include a State Waterfowl Stamp, but do not include a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp).
- **Nonresident Licenses:** Small Game—\$85; Five-day Small Game—\$55; Small Game (ages 10-11)—\$7; Patron—\$600; Jr. Patron—\$77; Sports—\$275; Jr. Sports—\$36.
- **Senior Citizen Recreation Card:** (No longer offered): Existing cards are still valid as long as the holder remains a Wisconsin resident. Card holders must purchase the Federal Migratory Bird Stamp annually; the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp privilege is not required. Card holders must be HIP registered annually (page 4).
- **Armed Forces members** are entitled to certain license privileges. Please see the *2010 Small Game Regulations* for more details.
- **License/permit/tag use:** It is illegal to allow someone else to use *or carry* your license, permit, tag or stamp, or for you to use *or carry* some other person's license, permit, tag or stamp while hunting. Any person may **transfer their Horicon or Collins goose permit/tag to a person age 17 and under**, but must complete the transfer application at least 15 days before the season opens. Contact nearest DNR office for more details.

## State and Federal Migratory Game Bird Restrictions

Migratory game birds include: ducks, geese, brant, rails, mourning dove, woodcock, coots, moorhens and snipe. The restrictions which apply include all those listed in the *2010 Small Game Hunting Regulations* (separate pamphlet) plus the following: **The following rules are both State (S) and Federal (F) unless specifically noted.**

- **Dual violation:** A violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.
- **Caution:** More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and federal waterfowl production areas open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, MN 55111-4056. Telephone: (612) 713-5458. See page 10 for special non-toxic shot requirements. It is the hunter's responsibility to know what rules apply.

### While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Hours:** Hunt before or after established hunting hours (pages 29–31).
- **Closed season:** Take migratory game birds during the closed season.
- **Daily bag limits:** Take or attempt to take, in any one day, more than one daily bag limit. **Group bagging for migratory game birds is not permitted.**
- **Field possession limit:** Possess more than one daily bag limit while at or between the place killed and the person's temporary or permanent abode.

## Methods

**1. Open Water hunting (S):** No person may hunt waterfowl in open water from, or with the aid of, any blind including any boat, canoe, raft, contrivance, or similar device except from:

1. **Mississippi River:** Blinds in any of the waters of the Mississippi River and adjoining counties provided the blinds are securely anchored and located not more than 100 feet from any shoreline including islands. Blinds in open water in the Lake Pepin and Grant County\* portions of the Mississippi River are permitted regardless of the distance from shore provided the blinds are securely anchored.

*\* Federal laws do not allow hunting beyond 100 ft from shore near Potosi, Wisconsin river mile 586.3 to 592.1 in Grant County. For more information contact the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge at (507) 452-4232 or visit [fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/](http://fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver/).*

2. **Big Green Lake and Great Lakes area:** Blinds in open waters of Big Green Lake in Green Lake County, Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and Green Bay if beyond 500 feet of any lake or bay shoreline. Blinds do not have to be anchored in these areas.
3. **Lake Winnebago and Petenwell Flowage:** Blinds in open waters of Lake Winnebago and Petenwell flowage (north of state highway 21 and south of state highway 73) if located more than 1,000 feet from any shoreline, including islands, provided blinds are securely anchored.

### The following methods of hunting waterfowl are legal and not considered hunting from open water:

- Hunting from a boat, blind or similar devices when in compliance with all of the following:
  - Some part of the boat or blind is within 3 feet of naturally occurring vegetation (live or dead\*) rooted to the bottom.
  - This vegetation provides at least 50% concealment of the hunter and the boat and blind when viewed from at least 1 direction, and
  - The vegetation extends above the water's surface to a height at or above the sides of any boat being used for hunting.

\* Dead stumps and dead trees in the water do not constitute a natural growth of vegetation for the purpose of this rule.

**Note:** *You may hunt in any open water area provided you are standing on the bottom without the aid of a blind. Blinds include, but are not limited to, any boat, canoe, raft or similar device that provides any concealment for the hunter. In areas where open water blinds are legal, (see above) they shall be removed at the close of hunting hours each day. See page 11 for law on shooting near dwellings.*

- **Jump Shooting:** The open water restrictions are not intended to prohibit legal jump shooting activities. It is legal to hunt by non-motorized boat on narrow streams. However, on larger bodies of water, where shooting shore to shore is not possible, the hunter must keep a portion of the boat within 3 feet of natural emergent vegetation rooted to the bottom which provides at least 50% concealment of the hunter and the boat when viewed from at least one direction. Skirting the edge of rivers and lakes in this manner is considered legal.

## 2. Structures, Boats and Vehicles

### While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Structures (S):** Hunt from any pier, dam, dock, breakwater or similar artificial structure. Class A disabled hunting permit holders are exempt.
- **Sink box:** Hunt from a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).

### *It is illegal to:*

- **Waterfowl blind (S):** Establish a waterfowl blind on state property, including the bed of any navigable lake, prior to 7 days before the waterfowl season or leave it established beyond 7 days after the close of the waterfowl season. No person may maintain, occupy or use any blind left on state property during the season unless the owner's name and address AND DNR customer ID number in the English language and in lettering one inch square or larger is affixed permanently to the blind and shall be readily visible and legible at all times. **Remember:** Placement of waterfowl blinds on public land does not restrict others from using or hunting on the public land where the blind is located.
- **Moving boats:** Hunt or shoot from any *moving* boat other than those propelled by paddle, oars or pole. Motorboats and sailboats must have their motors completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefore ceased before loading or discharging a firearm.
- **Vehicle use:** Take migratory game birds from, or with the aid or use of, any vehicle (does not include boats) except by qualified disabled persons under DNR permit. Federal rules prohibit taking migratory game birds from any motor vehicle, except paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs.
- **Hazing:** Use in any manner any air, water, or motor-driven land conveyance for the purposes of concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up any migratory game bird to put them in the range of hunters.

### 3. Devices

#### **While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:**

- **Decoys:** Hunt with decoys which are:
  1. Placed beyond 200 feet from the cover in which the hunter is located (S).
  2. Placed in the water prior to one hour before the opening of waterfowl hunting time (S).
  3. Left in the water more than 20 minutes after the close of waterfowl hunting time (S).
  4. Left in the water unattended. *Note: You may leave decoys unattended on dry land (S).*
  5. Live, regardless of distance from the hunter. *Note: All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of migratory wild waterfowl.*
- **Bird calls:** Hunt **with** or **while in possession** of electronic bird calls or recordings or imitations thereof while hunting waterfowl.

### 4. Baiting

“**Baited Area**” means any area on which salt, grain or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited or scattered, if it could serve as an attractant or lure for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of the bait.

#### **While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:**

Hunt waterfowl, coots or mourning doves by the method or 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, **except the following practices are legal:**

- Hunting over standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; croplands flooded after harvest; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, a normal agricultural harvest or post-harvest manipulation, or a normal soil stabilization practice.
- Hunting from standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

**The regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot are more restrictive than for hunting mourning doves.** In addition to legal methods listed above, it is legal to hunt **mourning doves** over the following areas:

- Lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural practices in addition to normal planting, normal harvesting, and normal post-harvest manipulation.
- Manipulated agricultural crops or wildlife food plots provided these crops were planted in a manner consistent with Extension Service guidelines for planting a crop. Manipulation **may not** include the distributing or scattering of seeds, grains, or other feed after the seed or grain has been removed from the field where grown after it was harvested.

**Note:** Manipulation of crops or natural vegetation **prior** to harvest by mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatment is **legal** for hunting **MOURNING DOVES**, but is **NOT LEGAL** for hunting other species of wildlife, not even if the purpose of the manipulation was for hunting mourning doves. The only time it is legal to hunt other species which are being attracted to manipulated crop lands or food plots is when the manipulation occurs **AFTER** the field has undergone a normal harvest and removal of grain.

## Baiting, continued...

For further information including definitions, details and examples, see the Wisconsin Baiting and Feeding rules publications available on the Wisconsin DNR web site at: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/bait.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/bait.htm) or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service web site: [www.fws.gov/le/hunt/fish/waterfowl\\_baiting.htm](http://www.fws.gov/le/hunt/fish/waterfowl_baiting.htm), or [www.fws.gov/le/hunt/fish/dovebaiting.htm](http://www.fws.gov/le/hunt/fish/dovebaiting.htm), for a complete set of Federal & State Waterfowl & Dove Baiting regulations.

## 5. Guns and Ammunition

### While pursuing migratory game birds, it is illegal to:

- **Shotguns:** Hunt with anything other than a shotgun fired from the shoulder, bow and arrow, or by falconry. Persons possessing Class A or C disabled or crossbow hunting permits and resident hunters 65 years of age or older with a valid archery or small game license may use a crossbow. Taking migratory game birds with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun with a bore larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance is illegal.
- **Shotgun capacity:** Hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- **Shot type:** Hunt with or while in possession of any type of lead or toxic shot when hunting ducks, geese, brant, snipe, rails, coots and moorhens. **Hunters may not possess or use lead or toxic shot while hunting mourning doves on DNR managed land.** See next page for types of non-toxic shot. This means muzzleloaders must also use non-toxic shot. Only non-toxic sizes BB, BBB, T, or smaller are legal. Size F shot is illegal in Wisconsin.

Only non-toxic shot may be possessed or used for hunting migratory and upland game bird species on the Horicon and Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuges (UMRNWFR) and on federally owned Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

- Shoot a firearm within 100 yards of a building devoted to human occupancy while on lands of another without permission of the owner or occupant.
- **Firearm and bow transport (S):** Carry in or on a motor-driven boat while the motor is running, any firearm or bow unless such firearm is unloaded or such bow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.
- Hunt within 50 feet of the center of any public roadway. *Note: Railroad rights-of-way are private property and trespassing is prohibited unless permission is granted by the owner.*

Non-toxic Shot Type	Percent Composition by Weight
Bismuth-Tin	97% bismuth, 3% tin
Iron (Steel)	iron and carbon
Iron-Tungsten	any proportion of tungsten and $\geq 1\%$ iron
Iron-Tungsten-Nickel	$\geq 1\%$ iron, any proportion of tungsten, up to 40% nickel
Tungsten-Bronze (Two Types)	51.1% tungsten, 44.4% copper, 3.9% tin, 0.6% iron and 60% tungsten, 35.1% copper, 3.9% tin, 1% iron
Tungsten-Iron-Copper-Nickel	40-76% tungsten, 10-37% iron, 9-16% copper, 5-7% nickel
Tungsten-Matrix	95.9% tungsten, 4.1% polymer
Tungsten-Polymer	95.5% tungsten, 4.5% Nylon 6 or 11
Tungsten-Tin-Iron	any proportions of tungsten and tin, $\geq 1\%$ iron
Tungsten-Tin-Bismuth	any proportions of tungsten, tin, and bismuth
Tungsten-Tin-Iron-Nickel	65% tungsten, 21.8% tin, 10.4% iron, 2.8% nickel
Tungsten-Iron-Fluoropolymer	41.5-95.2 tungsten, 1.5-52.0 iron, and 3.5-8.0 fluoropolymer

## Possession Restrictions

- **Retrieval:** No person may kill or cripple any game bird without making every reasonable effort to retrieve such bird. This should be done without delay to prevent loss of the bird. Crippled birds should be immediately pursued.
- **Open water retrieval:** Crippled birds which fall or move into open water should be immediately pursued and a hunter may shoot crippled birds from a boat propelled by paddle, oars or pole. A shotgun may be uncased but may not be loaded or discharged while in a boat with the motor running and until all forward motion from the motor has ceased.
- **Tagging:** No person may give, put, or leave any migratory game birds (including mourning doves) at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:
  1. The hunter's signature.
  2. The hunter's address.
  3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
  4. The dates such birds were killed.





### Northern Zone

#### 2010 Migratory Bird Seasons (see detailed map on page 13)

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on Sept. 25 when hunting begins at 9:00 a.m.

<b>All Wild Ducks</b>	Sept. 25 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 23	<b>Daily bag limit:</b> 6 ducks in total to include: not more than 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 1 canvasback, <b>2 pintails</b> and 1 black duck. (For species of ducks not listed, such as teal and ring-necks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed 6 ducks).
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	Season Length	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<b>Mergansers</b>	Same as wild ducks. Daily bag may not include more than 2 hooded mergansers.	5	10
<b>Coot and Moorhen</b>	Same as wild ducks.	15	30
<b>Sora and Virginia Rails</b>	Same as wild ducks.	25	25
<b>Snipe</b>	Same as wild ducks.	8	16
<b>Woodcock</b>	September 25–November 8	3	6
<b>Mourning Doves</b>	September 1–November 9	15	30



### Southern Zone

#### 2010 Migratory Bird Seasons (see detailed map on page 13)

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on Oct. 2 when hunting begins at 9:00 a.m.

<b>All Wild Ducks</b>	Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)– Oct. 10 & Oct. 16–Dec. 5 <b>Season is CLOSED</b> Oct. 11 - 15.	<b>Daily bag limit:</b> 6 ducks in total to include: not more than 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 1 canvasback, <b>2 pintails</b> and 1 black duck. (For species of ducks not listed, such as teal and ring-necks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed 6 ducks).
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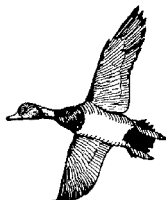
	Season Length	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<b>Mergansers</b>	Same as wild ducks. Daily bag may not include more than 2 hooded mergansers.	5	10
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<b>Sora and Virginia Rails</b>	Same as wild ducks.	25	25
<b>Snipe</b>	Same as wild ducks.	8	16
<b>Woodcock</b>	September 25–November 8	3	6
<b>Mourning Doves</b>	September 1–November 9	15	30

## Know the difference!

### Redhead

Hen: Brown head,  
bluish bill  
with white ring

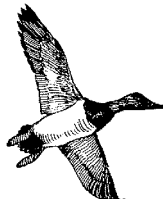
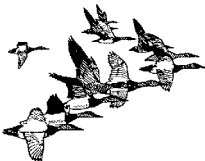
Drake: Red head,  
bluish bill  
with white ring



### Canvasback

Drake:  
Red head,  
black bill

Hen:  
Brown head,  
black bill



Canvasbacks can be distinguished from the more abundant redhead duck by their long, black, wedge-shaped bills and elongated heads.

Visit the following websites for help with duck ID:

- [www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/duckdist/index.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/duckdist/index.htm)
- [www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowlgallery.aspx](http://www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowlgallery.aspx)

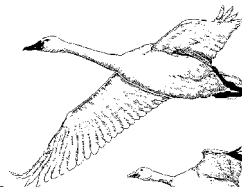
## Don't Shoot a Swan!

All wild swans are protected species in Wisconsin. Shooting a swan may cost you up to \$2,327 in penalties and three years revocation of all hunting, fishing and trapping privileges.

### Protected Species—all swans

- Plumage: all white
- Long neck
- Wingspan: 5.5-7 ft.
- Length: 4-5 ft.
- Weight: 15-30 lbs.

**Note: Swans in their first year of life appear grey.**



### Legal Game Species—Snow Goose

- Plumage: White, with black wing tips
- Short neck
- Length: 1.5 ft.
- Wingspan: 3.5 ft.

**Note:** Snow goose range is west of Wisconsin, few snow geese migrate through Wisconsin. Be sure of your target.

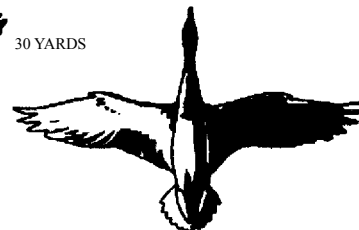
**Prevent Crippling:** These pictures represent the *actual size* of mallards at the effective range for steel shot. Test yourself continually during the season by holding your gun barrel up against these pictures. Thanks for your cooperation.



40 YARDS



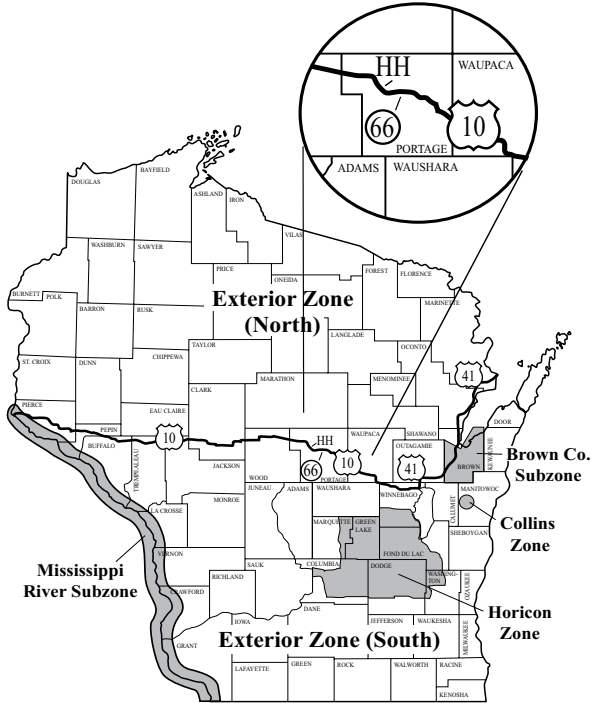
30 YARDS



# Goose Hunting

## Canada Goose Management Zones and Subzones

The state is divided into three management zones: Horicon, Collins, and Exterior. To hunt Canada geese in Wisconsin everyone must possess a Canada goose hunting permit which restricts them to one zone. Permits can be obtained by submitting a department application. Exterior Zone hunters may purchase an Exterior Zone permit until the close of the Exterior Zone Canada goose season. Hunters may hunt in only one zone and in the time period indicated on their permit.



The Exterior Zone includes the following subzones: Brown County and Mississippi River. Only persons having Exterior Zone permits are allowed to hunt Canada geese in these subzones. See pages 19-23 for descriptions of active subzone boundaries and season dates.

### 2010 Goose Hunting Seasons

Normal shooting hours (pages 29-31) apply except on September 25 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Northern Zone and on October 2 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Southern Zone.

Canada Geese	Season Length	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Staterwide Early Canada goose season*	Sept. 1-Sept. 15	5	10
	Period 1 Sept. 16-Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)-Oct. 31	2	Equal to the number of carcass tags received by each hunter (6)
	Period 2 Nov. 1-Dec. 16	2	
Period 1 Sept. 16-Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)-Oct. 3	2		
Collins Zone	Period 2 Oct. 4-Oct. 24	2	(6)
	Period 3 Oct. 25-Nov. 19	2	
	North portion (includes north part of Brown Co. Subzone)	2	
Exterior Zone	South portion (includes Rock Prairie Subzone & south part of Brown Co. Subzone)	2	4
	Mississippi River Subzone	2	4

\* A special permit is required. See the 2010 Early Canada Goose Hunting Regulations for rules and regulations.

### 2010 Goose Hunting Seasons *continued*

Normal shooting hours (pages 29–31) apply except on September 25 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Northern Zone and on October 2 when goose hunting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Southern Zone.

<b>Snow/blue geese, Ross' goose, other geese and Brant except White-fronted geese</b>	<b>Season Length</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit and Possession Limit</b>
Horicon Zone	Sept. 16–Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 16	<b>Bag limit:</b> 20 white geese and 1 brant.
Collins Zone	Sept. 16–Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 19	<b>The possession limit</b> is twice the daily bag limit for each species.
Exterior Zone	Sept. 18–Sept. 24 & Sept. 25 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 11	
	North portion (includes northern part of Brown Co. Subzone)	
Exterior Zone	Sept. 18–Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 10 & Oct. 16–Dec. 16 <b>Season CLOSED from Oct. 11–15.</b>	
	Mississippi River Subzone	Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 10 and Oct. 16–Dec. 30 <b>Season CLOSED from Oct. 11–15.</b>

<b>White-fronted geese</b>	<b>Season Length</b>	<b>Daily Bag Limit and Possession Limit</b>
Horicon Zone	Sept. 22–Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 16	<b>Bag limit:</b> 1 white-fronted goose.
Collins Zone	Sept. 16–Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 19	<b>The possession limit</b> is twice the daily bag limit.
Exterior Zone	Sept. 18–Sept. 24 & Sept. 25 (9:00 a.m.)–Dec. 11	
	South portion (includes southern part of Brown Co. Subzone)	
Exterior Zone	Sept. 18–Oct. 1 & Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 10 & Oct. 16–Dec. 16 <b>Season CLOSED from Oct. 11–15.</b>	
	Mississippi River Subzone	Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 10 & Oct. 16–Dec. 30 <b>Season CLOSED from Oct. 11–15.</b>

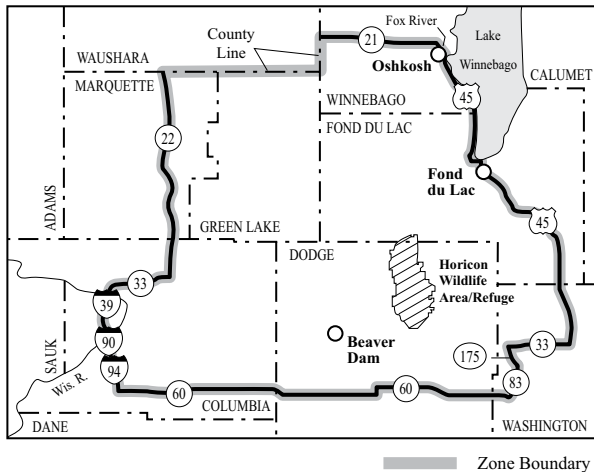
Note: Horicon Zone landowners and hunters may be eligible for additional tags. See page 24 for details.

## 2010 Canada Goose Management Zone Boundaries

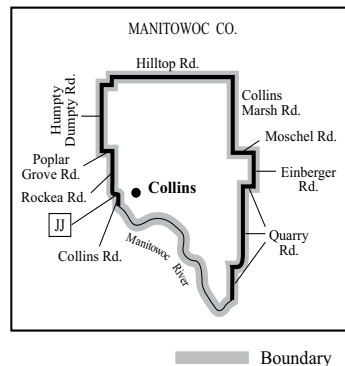
### Mississippi River Zone



### Horicon Zone



### Collins Zone



### Canada Goose Reporting Requirements

#### Exterior Zone and early September season

You must report each harvested Canada goose within 48 hours of the kill by calling 1-800-99-GOOSE (1-800-994-6673). You will receive a confirmation number after each successful report. If you make an error in reporting, please contact the Assistant Migratory Game Bird Ecologist at (608) 261-6458.

**Note:** Canada goose permit holders and other waterfowl hunters may be mailed a special hunting report. This report must be completed and mailed to the DNR. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Permits and tags are not transferable, cannot be reused, altered, or defaced and are only valid for the zone and time period specified on the permit.

### Canada Goose Permit Validation

#### Exterior Zone and early September season

When a Canada goose is killed and *before it is carried by hand or transported in any manner*, the hunter who killed the goose must validate their Canada goose hunting permit. Validation is accomplished by slitting or punching out the mark indicating the date of kill. Failure to follow validation procedure makes the possession of the goose illegal and can result in enforcement action.

## Canada Goose Tagging Requirement

### Collins and Horicon Zones

When a Canada goose is killed and *before it is carried by hand or transported in any manner by any person*, the hunter who killed the goose must:

- Validate the carcass tag by tearing or cutting out notches on the carcass tag. This designates the month, day and time of kill. Failure to follow this validation procedure makes possession of the goose illegal and invalidates the carcass tag.
- Completely attach the tag (utilizing its own adhesive) to the neck or leg of the Canada goose.

## Canada Goose Transportation Restrictions

### Collins and Horicon Zones

- You may only transport Canada geese in a motor vehicle in such a manner that the tag attached to the Canada goose cannot be handled by any occupant of the vehicle.
- You must keep the tag attached to the Canada goose until it reaches your home and is processed.

### Special Restrictions

Placement of decoys or shooting at waterfowl that are within 75 yards of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge boundary is allowed, provided the hunter is at least 75 yards away from the refuge when shooting at any waterfowl.

## Agricultural Damage Permits – Horicon Zone

Starting September 16, landowners or lessees with serious crop damage can apply for Canada goose damage hunting permits. They may use 2 Canada goose agricultural damage tags themselves and issue the remaining tags to Horicon Zone Canada goose hunters. The total number of tags available is limited and based on actual goose damage.

**Hunter Eligibility:** You must possess a Horicon Zone Canada Goose permit to receive additional Canada Goose tags under the damage program.

**How to Participate:** Contact the USDA Wildlife Services Office in Waupun at 920-324-4454. A recording will explain if agricultural damage goose tags are available and how to obtain and use them.

**Restrictions:** You may receive up to 2 tags from each landowner participating in the program. *Tags are valid for weekday hunting only.* In addition, you must use your regular Horicon Zone Canada goose tag(s) first if they are valid during the effective dates of the landowner's permit.

**Bag Limit:** Geese taken under the damage program are part of the daily bag. You may not exceed the daily bag for Canada geese shown on page 19.

## 2010 Youth Waterfowl Hunt—Sept. 18 & 19

### Who is eligible?

Only persons ages 10–15 may hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, moorhens and mergansers). All hunters must be accompanied by an adult chaperone age 18 years or older. The adult may not accompany more than one youth hunter, except that an adult may accompany two youth hunters if at least one of the hunters is age 12-15 and has completed hunter education. The adult may not hunt ducks, however, an adult may hunt geese in the Exterior Zone or the Horicon or Collins Zone if they possess the appropriate Canada goose permit.

### What type of licenses are needed?

Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration is required (see page 5). All license and stamp requirements are waived for eligible youth waterfowl hunters except the Canada goose hunting permit.

### What other rules apply?

All other regulations including hunting hours, daily bag limits and hunting mentorship program (see page 4) rules will apply.

### Does this youth hunt include goose hunting?

Yes. The daily bag limit for all zones on Sept. 18 & 19 is 2 geese statewide. In the Exterior Zone, a youth must possess an Exterior zone goose permit and must report their harvest (page 23). In the Horicon and Collins zones, a youth possessing a valid tag for any time period within that zone may use that tag to hunt geese during the youth hunt.

### Finding Public Land Open to Hunting

The DNR website provides detailed maps showing public lands in your area. Go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and click on the Hunting link. On the left side of the screen under “Hunting Opportunities” click on Wildlife Recreation Lands to find a State Wildlife Area near you that is open to hunting.

## Falconry Seasons

Species	Dates	Daily Bag	Poss. Limit
Rail, woodcock, snipe and moorhen	Sept. 1 - Dec. 16	3*	6*
Ducks, mergansers & coots	<b>North</b>		
	Sept. 18-19	3*	6*
	Sept. 25 (9:00 a.m.)–Nov. 23	3*	6*
	Jan. 7–Feb. 20	3*	6*
	<b>South</b>		
	Sept. 18-19	3*	6*
Oct. 2 (9:00 a.m.)–Oct. 10	3*	6*	
Oct. 16–Dec. 5	3*	6*	
Jan. 7–Feb. 20	3*	6*	
Geese	Same as regular statewide season	*	*

\* The total daily bag limit for migratory game birds is three, singly or in aggregate, to include not more than the legal limit for Canada Geese (listed on page 19) in the zone in which you are hunting. The possession limit for migratory game birds is twice the daily bag.

## Public or Private? How do I know if I'm trespassing?

- Navigability determines whether a waterway is public or private. Navigable lakes and streams are public waterways.
- A waterway is navigable if it has a bed and banks, and it is possible to float a canoe or other small craft at sometime of the year - even if only during spring floods.
- Because they are public, you may use navigable waters for fishing, hunting, boating, swimming or other recreational activities, provided public access is available, or you have permission of the landowner to cross their property to reach the waterway. Once on a navigable waterway, **as long as you keep your feet wet (remain in the water), you may walk, fish, hunt, swim, or boat in any navigable lake, stream or impoundment.**
- The public may only use the exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian land owner when it is necessary to exit the water to bypass an obstruction.
- It is not legal to enter uplands or exposed shore areas to retrieve game without permission of the land owner.

## Health Advisory

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has historically tested many wildlife species to detect contaminants that include: pesticides such as DDT, DDE, and dieldrin; industrial chemicals, such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) or dioxins; and heavy metals, such as mercury, lead, and cadmium.

PCBs primarily pose health risks to human fetuses, infants, and children by slowing growth and development. PCB exposure has also been linked to cancer in adults and other health problems. Health professionals recommend that you limit your exposure to PCBs in your diet as much as possible.

The state Division of Health has issued the following health advice to protect you from exposure to PCBs and mercury in waterfowl taken in these areas.

Location	Health Advice
Lower Fox River from Lake Winnebago at Neenah and Menasha downstream, including Little Lake Butte des Morts, to the northeast city limits of Kaukauna Lower Fox River from the DePere Dam to the river's mouth at Green Bay, and lower Green Bay south of a line from Point Sauble west to the west shore of Green Bay	Remove all skin and visible fat before cooking <b>mallard ducks</b> using these waters. Discard drippings or stuffing because they may retain fat that contains PCBs
Sheboygan River from Sheboygan Falls downstream to the river's mouth at Lake Michigan	No one should eat <b>mallard ducks</b> using this water
Sheboygan Harbor	No one should eat <b>lesser scaup (bluebills)</b> using this water
Milwaukee River from Highway 167 (Thiensville) upstream to Lime Kiln Dam at Grafton and Cedar Creek from the Milwaukee River up to Bridge Road in the Village of Cedarburg	No one should eat <b>mallard ducks</b> using this water
Milwaukee Harbor	No one should eat <b>black ducks, mallards, scaup, and ruddy ducks</b> using this water
Waters in the City of Cedarburg	No one should eat Canada geese using these waters
Whitewater Lake and Rice Lake, Walworth County	Consumption of Canada geese should be limited to one meal per month

Note: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration standard for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in poultry is 3 parts per million calculated on a fat basis.



## 2010 Northern Area Waterfowl Hunting Hours—Zone A Table

	Sept. 2010		Oct. 2010		Nov. 2010		Dec. 2010		Jan. 2011		
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	Date
1	5:41	7:28	6:18	6:30	7:00	5:37	6:40	4:08	7:01	4:17	1
2	5:42	7:26	6:20★	6:28	7:01	5:35	6:42	4:07	7:01	4:18	2
3	5:44	7:24	6:21	6:27	7:03	5:34	6:44	4:07	7:01	4:18	3
4	5:45	7:22	6:22	6:25	7:04	5:33	6:43	4:07	7:01	4:19	4
5	5:46	7:21	6:24	6:23	7:06	5:31	6:45	4:06	7:01	4:21	5
6	5:47	7:19	6:25	6:21	7:07	5:30	6:46	4:06	7:01	4:22	6
7	5:49	7:17	6:26	6:19	6:08	4:29	6:47	4:06	7:00	4:23	7
8	5:50	7:15	6:27	6:17	6:10	4:27	6:48	4:06	7:00	4:24	8
9	5:51	7:13	6:29	6:15	6:11	4:26	6:49	4:06	7:00	4:25	9
10	5:52	7:11	6:30	6:13	6:13	4:25	6:50	4:06	6:59	4:26	10
11	5:54	7:09	6:31	6:12	6:14	4:24	6:51	4:06	6:59	4:27	11
12	5:55	7:07	6:33	6:10	6:16	4:23	6:52	4:06	6:59	4:29	12
13	5:56	7:05	6:34	6:08	6:17	4:21	6:52	4:06	6:58	4:30	13
14	5:57	7:03	6:35	6:06	6:18	4:20	6:53	4:06	6:58	4:31	14
15	5:58	7:01	6:37	6:04	6:20	4:19	6:54	4:07	6:57	4:32	15
16	6:00	6:59	6:38	6:03	6:21	4:18	6:55	4:07	6:57	4:34	16
17	6:01	6:57	6:39	6:01	6:22	4:17	6:55	4:07	6:56	4:35	17
18	6:02	6:55	6:41	5:59	6:24	4:16	6:56	4:07	6:55	4:36	18
19	6:03	6:54	6:42	5:57	6:25	4:15	6:57	4:08	6:54	4:38	19
20	6:05	6:52	6:43	5:56	6:27	4:15	6:57	4:08	6:54	4:39	20
21	6:06	6:50	6:45	5:54	6:28	4:14	6:58	4:09	6:53	4:40	21
22	6:07	6:48	6:46	5:52	6:29	4:13	6:58	4:09	6:52	4:42	22
23	6:08	6:46	6:47	5:51	6:30	4:12	6:59	4:10	6:51	4:43	23
24	6:10	6:44	6:49	5:49	6:32	4:12	6:59	4:10	6:50	4:45	24
25	6:11★	6:42	6:50	5:48	6:33	4:11	7:00	4:11	6:49	4:46	25
26	6:12	6:40	6:52	5:46	6:34	4:10	7:00	4:12	6:48	4:47	26
27	6:13	6:38	6:53	5:44	6:36	4:10	7:00	4:12	6:47	4:49	27
28	6:15	6:36	6:54	5:43	6:37	4:09	7:00	4:13	6:46	4:50	28
29	6:16	6:34	6:56	5:41	6:38	4:09	7:01	4:14	6:45	4:52	29
30	6:17	6:32	6:57	5:40	6:39	4:08	7:01	4:15	6:44	4:53	30
31			6:59	5:38			7:01	4:16	6:43	4:55	31

★ Waterfowl hunting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 25 in the Northern Waterfowl Zone and at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 2 in the Southern Waterfowl Zone. The 9:00 a.m. opener does not apply to woodcock or mourning dove hunting (for these species, opening day hours start at one-half hour before sunrise).

## 2010 Southern Area Waterfowl Hunting Hours—Zone A Table

	Sept. 2010		Oct. 2010		Nov. 2010		Dec. 2010		Jan. 2011		
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	Date
1	5:44	7:26	6:18	6:32	6:57	5:42	6:35	4:15	6:55	4:24	1
2	5:46	7:25	6:20★	6:30	6:58	5:40	6:36	4:15	6:55	4:25	2
3	5:47	7:23	6:21	6:28	6:59	5:39	6:37	4:14	6:55	4:26	3
4	5:48	7:21	6:22	6:26	7:01	5:38	6:38	4:14	6:55	4:27	4
5	5:49	7:19	6:23	6:25	7:02	5:36	6:39	4:14	6:55	4:28	5
6	5:50	7:18	6:24	6:23	7:03	5:35	6:40	4:14	6:55	4:29	6
7	5:51	7:16	6:26	6:21	6:05	4:34	6:41	4:14	6:54	4:30	7
8	5:52	7:14	6:27	6:19	6:06	4:33	6:42	4:14	6:54	4:31	8
9	5:53	7:12	6:28	6:18	6:07	4:32	6:43	4:14	6:54	4:32	9
10	5:55	7:10	6:29	6:16	6:09	4:31	6:44	4:14	6:54	4:33	10
11	5:56	7:08	6:30	6:14	6:10	4:29	6:45	4:14	6:53	4:35	11
12	5:57	7:07	6:32	6:13	6:11	4:28	6:45	4:14	6:53	4:36	12
13	5:58	7:05	6:33	6:11	6:13	4:27	6:46	4:14	6:53	4:37	13
14	5:59	7:03	6:34	6:09	6:14	4:26	6:47	4:14	6:52	4:38	14
15	6:00	7:01	6:35	6:07	6:15	4:25	6:48	4:14	6:52	4:39	15
16	6:01	6:59	6:36	6:06	6:17	4:25	6:48	4:15	6:51	4:41	16
17	6:02	6:58	6:38	6:04	6:18	4:24	6:49	4:15	6:51	4:42	17
18	6:04	6:56	6:39	6:03	6:19	4:23	6:50	4:15	6:50	4:43	18
19	6:05	6:54	6:40	6:01	6:20	4:22	6:50	4:16	6:49	4:44	19
20	6:06	6:52	6:41	5:59	6:22	4:21	6:51	4:16	6:49	4:46	20
21	6:07	6:50	6:43	5:58	6:23	4:20	6:51	4:17	6:48	4:47	21
22	6:08	6:48	6:44	5:56	6:24	4:20	6:52	4:17	6:47	4:48	22
23	6:09	6:46	6:45	5:55	6:25	4:19	6:52	4:18	6:46	4:49	23
24	6:10	6:45	6:47	5:53	6:27	4:18	6:53	4:18	6:46	4:51	24
25	6:12★	6:43	6:48	5:52	6:28	4:18	6:53	4:19	6:45	4:52	25
26	6:13	6:41	6:49	5:50	6:29	4:17	6:54	4:20	6:44	4:53	26
27	6:14	6:39	6:50	5:49	6:30	4:17	6:54	4:20	6:43	4:55	27
28	6:15	6:37	6:52	5:47	6:31	4:16	6:54	4:21	6:42	4:56	28
29	6:16	6:36	6:53	5:46	6:32	4:16	6:54	4:22	6:41	4:57	29
30	6:17	6:34	6:54	5:44	6:34	4:15	6:55	4:23	6:40	4:59	30
31			6:56	5:43			6:55	4:23	6:39	5:00	31

★ Waterfowl hunting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 25 in the Northern Waterfowl Zone and at 9:00 a.m. on Oct. 2 in the Southern Waterfowl Zone. The 9:00 a.m. opener does not apply to woodcock or mourning dove hunting (for these species, opening day hours start at one-half hour before sunrise).

# Questions?

## Call the DNR Call Center at:

1-888-WDNR INFO (1-888-936-7463) • local 608-266-2621.

Staff are available 7 days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Hmong & Spanish speaking representatives available.

You may also find assistance at DNR Service Centers, but with limited hours and days open for counter services. When open, hours of operation are 9:00 to 12:30 and 1:30 to 4:00. See chart.

Open  Closed

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
Antigo	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Oshkosh	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Open
Ashland	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Park Falls	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Baldwin	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Peshtigo	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Black River Falls	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Plymouth	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Cumberland	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Poynette	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dodgeville	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Rhineland	Open	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed
Eau Claire	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Spoooner	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open
Fitchburg	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Sturgeon Bay	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Green Bay	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Sturtevant	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Hayward	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Superior	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open
Horicon	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Waukesha	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed
Janesville	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Wausau	Closed	Closed	Open	Closed	Open
La Crosse	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Wautoma	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Ladysmith	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed	Wisconsin Rapids	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Milwaukee	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Woodruff	Closed	Open	Closed	Closed	Open

### General mailing address:

Department of  
Natural Resources  
Central Office  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

**About the Cover:** Craig Fairbert is the 2010 winner of the state waterfowl stamp contest with his painting of a wood duck pair. The contest is an annual event open to Wisconsin artists beginning in mid-May. Details may be obtained by writing Bureau of Wildlife Management, DNR, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

The waterfowl stamps you purchase assist with the development and maintenance of wetland habitats that benefit waterfowl.



**Preserve your waterfowling  
heritage, volunteer today.  
1-800-45-DUCKS**

The content of this brochure was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. Part of the printing cost was generously paid for by the Wisconsin chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Inc.