

## TENTATIVE NEW JERSEY 2013-14 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASON DATES SET

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife (Division) and Fish and Game Council proposed tentative 2013-14 migratory bird hunting season dates at their May 14 meeting.

The Division and Fish and Game Council are responsible for adopting migratory bird seasons within the frameworks prescribed in the Code of Federal Regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

The status of migratory birds is annually measured through the completion of numerous, continent-wide population monitoring surveys. Following review of these survey results and with consultation with the four Flyway Councils, hunting season frameworks for migratory birds are annually promulgated by the Service. Hunting season frameworks include season length, bag limits, and outside opening and closing dates for a particular season.

The tentative 2013-14 New Jersey migratory bird hunting season dates follow. Although these regulation selections are expected to be within the frameworks proposed by the Service, they will not be formally finalized through the Federal Register process until the conclusion of the public comment period in late summer. This year's season selections include framework date changes for duck seasons in both the South and Coastal Zones. These changes were implemented in response to a duck hunter survey ( [www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2013/wtrfwl\\_hntr\\_survey12-13.pdf](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2013/wtrfwl_hntr_survey12-13.pdf) ) that the Division recently conducted which indicated hunters' preference to hunt later into January in these zones. Season dates for the Regular (November to January period) Canada goose season are yet to be determined pending results of surveys of Atlantic Population Canada geese in northern Quebec that are conducted in June. The *Migratory Bird Regulations* will be available on the Division's web site by August and paper copies will be available at Division offices, license agents and sporting goods stores throughout the state in September.

## TENTATIVE NEW JERSEY 2013-14 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS

May 14, 2013

**NOTE:** Although the following selections are expected to be within the frameworks proposed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, they will not be formally finalized through the Federal Register process until the conclusion of the public comment period in September 2013.

### BASE WATERFOWL SEASONS

Ducks: 60 days with 6 bird bag limit (*Species restrictions to be determined*)

Brant: 30 days with 2 bird bag limit

Canada goose (Regular season): To be determined

Youth days: 2 days with same bag limits as regular seasons

### NORTH ZONE

Ducks: Oct. 12 – Oct. 24

Nov. 16 – Jan. 11

Brant: Nov. 16 – Nov. 30

Dec. 24 – Jan. 11

Canada geese: To be determined

Youth days: Oct. 5 & Nov. 2

### SOUTH ZONE

Ducks: Oct. 19 – Oct. 26

Nov. 16 – Jan. 16

Brant: Oct. 19 – Oct. 26

Nov. 16 – Dec. 12

Canada geese: To be determined

Youth days: Oct. 12 & Nov. 9

### COASTAL ZONE

Ducks: Nov. 2 – Nov. 12

Nov. 28 – Jan. 25

Brant: Nov. 2 – Nov. 12

Dec. 21 – Jan. 14

Canada geese: To be determined

Youth days: Oct. 26 & Nov. 16

### CANADA GOOSE

**September Season** (Statewide)

Sept. 2 - Sept. 30

*Daily bag limit: 15 Canada geese*

The following special regulations apply:

1. Electronic calls permitted
2. Shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
3. Hunting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

**NOTE: THESE SPECIAL REGULATIONS ONLY APPLY TO THE SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASON**

**Regular Season** (TO BE DETERMINED)

**Special Winter Season** (Two Zones): TO BE DETERMINED

Open day after regular season closes – Feb. 15

*Daily bag limit: 5 singly or in aggregate to include cackling and white-fronted geese*

**LIGHT GOOSE**

**Regular Season (107 days)**

Statewide: Oct. 17 – Feb. 15

*Daily bag limit: 25, singly or in aggregate to include greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese*

**Conservation Order**

Statewide: Feb. 17 – Apr. 5

*Daily bag limit: None; includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese*

The following special regulations apply:

4. Electronic calls permitted
5. Shotguns capable of holding no more than 7 shells (including magazine and chamber) are permitted.
6. Hunting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

***NOTE: THESE SPECIAL REGULATIONS ONLY APPLY TO THE LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER***

**WOODCOCK (36 days)**

North Zone: Oct. 19 – Nov. 23

South Zone: Nov. 9 – Nov. 30

Dec. 19 – Jan. 1

*Daily bag limit: 3*

**SEA DUCKS; SEA DUCK AREA ONLY (107 days)**

Sept. 24 – Jan 25

*Daily bag limit: 7 singly or in aggregate to include long-tailed ducks, eiders and scoters; except no more than 4 scoters*

**RAILS AND MOORHEN (70 days)**

Sept. 2 – Nov. 10

*Daily bag limit: Sora and Virginia rails 25 total or aggregate; moorhen and clapper rail 10*

**SNIPE (107 days)**

Sept. 17 – Jan. 1

*Daily bag limit: 8*

**CROWS (Mon., Thur., Fri., & Sat.)**

Aug. 12 – Dec. 7

Dec. 16 – Mar. 15

*Daily bag limit: None*