NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife

NJ 2017-18 MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS

PRIMARY WATERFOWL SEASONS

**NORTH ZONE**
Canada Goose: Nov. 11 – Nov. 25  Dec. 9 – Jan. 20
   Youth days: Oct. 7 & Feb. 3

**SOUTH ZONE**
Ducks & Brant: Oct. 21 – Oct. 28  Nov. 18 – Jan. 18
Canada Goose: Nov. 18 – Dec. 2  Dec. 9 – Jan. 20
   Youth days: Oct. 14 & Feb. 3

**COASTAL ZONE**
Ducks & Brant: Nov. 9 – Nov. 11  Nov. 23 – Jan. 27
Canada Goose: Nov. 9 – Nov. 11  Nov. 18 – Feb. 15
   Youth days: Nov. 4 & Feb. 10

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**Daily bag limits** *(Items in red are changes from last year)*
Ducks: 6 ducks which may NOT include more than: 4 mallards (not more than 2 hen mallards), 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, and 4 scoters. 15 coots.

Merlansers: 5 mergansers although not more than 2 hooded mergansers. Merganser limits are in addition to regular ducks.

Brant: 2

Canada geese (Regular season):
   North and South Zones: 3
   Coastal Zone: 5

   Canada goose bag limit is singly or in aggregate to include cackling and white-fronted geese

Youth days: 6 ducks with same species restrictions, 15 coots, 2 brant, 3 (North and South Zones) or 5 (Coastal Zone) Canada geese, 25 light geese.
**Canada Goose**

*September Season (Statewide)*
Sept. 1 - 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**

**Canada Goose**

*Special Winter Season (Two Distinct Zones)*
Jan. 22 – Feb. 15
Daily bag limit: 5 singly or in aggregate to include cackling and white-fronted geese

**Sea Ducks: Sea Duck Area Only**
Nov. 4 – Jan. 12
Daily bag limit: 5 in total to include long-tailed ducks, eiders and scoters; except no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, or 4 scoters in aggregate.

**Light Goose**

*Regular Season*
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. 16 – Apr. 7
Daily bag limit: None; includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross’s 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 LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

**Woodcock**

North Zone: Oct. 21 – Nov. 25

South Zone: Nov. 11 – Dec. 2
Dec. 16 – Dec. 29
Daily bag limit: 3
**RAILS AND GALLINULE**
Sept. 1 – Nov. 9
  Daily bag limit: Sora and Virginia rails 25 total or aggregate; gallinule and clapper rail 10

**SNIPE**
Sept. 16 – Dec. 30
  Daily bag limit: 8

**CROWS (Mon., Thur., Fri., & Sat.)**
Aug. 14 – Dec. 2
Dec. 11 – Mar. 17
  Daily bag limit: None