

SEPTEMBER TEAL-ONLY SEASON

Blue-winged, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal
SEASON: Sept. 13–Sept. 28, 2008. Daily Bag Limit: 4 in aggregate. Possession Limit: 8 in the aggregate.

MOORHENS (Common Gallinules) AND PURPLE GALLINULES

SEASON: Sept. 13–Sept. 28, 2008 and Nov. 1–Dec. 24, 2008. Daily Bag Limit: 15 in aggregate. Possession Limit: 30 in the aggregate.

KING AND CLAPPER RAILS

SEASON: Sept. 13–Sept. 28, 2008 and Nov. 1–Dec. 24, 2008. Daily Bag Limit: 15 in aggregate. Possession Limit: 30 in the aggregate.

SORA AND VIRGINIA RAILS

SEASON: Sept. 13–Sept. 28, 2008 and Nov. 1–Dec. 24, 2008. Daily Bag Limit: 25 in aggregate. Possession Limit: 25 in the aggregate.

WILSON'S SNIPE

(Common Snipe or Jacksnipe)

SEASON: Nov. 1, 2008–Feb. 15, 2009. Daily Bag Limit: 8 in aggregate. Possession Limit: 16 in the aggregate.

WOODCOCK

SEASON: Dec. 18, 2008–Jan. 31, 2009. Daily Bag Limit: 3 in aggregate. Possession Limit: 6 in the aggregate.

VIOLATION AND PENALTY

Violation of state migratory game bird regulations also is a violation of federal regulations. A person who violates any migratory game bird regulation is subject to: (1) a criminal penalty from \$25 to \$500 for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed; (2) civil restitution for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed, and; (3) license suspension for up to 60 days or license revocation for one year.

STOP POACHING!
FOR 24-HOUR REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS,
you may call: (800) 792-GAME

For additional **information** on hunting and fishing regulations or other subjects related to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department call our toll-free number (800) 792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us



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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

EARLY SEASON MIGRATORY GAME BIRD DIGEST

2008-2009

Texas Hunting Regulations for Dove, Teal, Gallinule, Rail, Snipe and Woodcock

Federal regulations related to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. For more information on federal regulations contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), P.O. Box 329, Albuquerque, NM 87103. Phone (505) 248-7889 or visit: <http://www.fws.gov/le/>

REPORT BIRD BANDS
Call 1-800-327-BAND [2263]
or on the Internet at:
<http://www.reportband.gov>

DEFINITIONS

AGGREGATE LIMIT – A daily bag or possession limit composed of more than one species.

BAIT – Salt, grain, or other feed, directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, 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.

BAITED AREA – Any area on which bait has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered so as to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all bait.

DAILY BAG LIMIT – The maximum number of birds as specified for each species which may be taken during the legal shooting hours of any one day.

LEGAL SHOTGUN – Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder, and incapable of holding more than three shells (shotguns capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so the gun's total capacity does not exceed three shells).

MANIPULATION – Alteration of natural vegetation or crops, including but not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, and herbicide treatments.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – Includes all wild species of ducks, geese, coot, rail, gallinules, snipe, woodcock, doves (mourning, white-winged, white-tipped or white-fronted) and sandhill cranes. Does not include exotic collared-dove.

NATURAL VEGETATION – Any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species.

NORMAL AGRICULTURAL PLANTING, HARVESTING, AND POST-HARVEST MANIPULATION – A planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of a crop, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

POSSESSION LIMIT – The maximum number of migratory game birds that can be possessed at any time (two times the daily bag limit after the first day of the season).

SINKBOX – A low floating device concealing a person below the surface of the water. **UNLAWFUL!**

WATERFOWL – Includes ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots.

GENERAL RULES

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS – All migratory game bird hunters must have a valid hunting license. Residents and non-residents under 17 years of age may hunt with the Youth Hunting License (Type 169). Hunters 17 years of age or older **must have a driver's license or personal identification certificate** (issued by the Department of Public Safety) on their person while hunting. **Non-residents** must have similar documents issued by the agency in the state or country of which the person is a resident that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

STAMP ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS – A person 17 years of age or older must possess a migratory game bird stamp endorsement to hunt any migratory game bird in this state. Federal law also requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over to have a federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called a Duck Stamp; available at most post offices and TPWD offices).

HIP REQUIREMENT (FREE) – No person shall hunt migratory game birds in this state unless that person is certified in the Harvest Information Program (HIP) in Texas. When purchasing a hunting license, indicate to the license clerk that you intend to hunt migratory game birds during the 2008-2009 season and need to be HIP certified by answering a few simple questions. The letters "HIP" should appear on your license to indicate that you have been HIP certified.

FEES – Licenses, permits and stamp fee receipts (or replacements if they are lost or stolen) are available at TPWD offices, many sporting good stores, bait shops, and other retailers, or by calling 1-800-TX-LIC-4-U.

SHOOTING HOURS – The lawful time of day during the open season for taking mourning dove, teal, rail and gallinule shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The lawful time of day during the Special White-winged Dove Season (Sept. 6, 7, 13, 14) shall be noon to sunset. During all other open seasons where white-winged doves are allowed to be taken, the white-winged dove shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/hunt/planning> for sunrise/sunset computations.

SHIPPING – When shipping migratory game birds the package must be marked with the name and address of the sender, the name and address of the persons to whom the birds are being shipped and the number of birds of each species contained in the package.

WASTE OF GAME – A reasonable effort must be made to retrieve any killed or wounded birds and any wounded bird retrieved must be immediately killed and made a part of the bag limit. After retention, the birds must be kept in an edible condition.

DOCUMENTATION – All harvested migratory game birds not in the immediate possession of the person who killed them must be tagged with a wildlife resource document until the birds reach the possessor’s personal residence and are finally processed. If a hunter’s personal birds have been finally processed at a cold storage or processing facility and the hunter transports someone else’s birds, then a wildlife resource document must accompany those birds until they reach the possessor’s permanent residence.

LAWFUL HUNTING METHODS

Legal shotguns, archery equipment (except crossbows), falconry, dogs, artificial decoys and manual or mouth-operated bird calls are lawful. Hunting is permitted in the open or from a blind or other type of concealment or from floating craft (except a sinkbox) provided that all motion resulting from sail or motor has ceased. All other means and methods are unlawful.

VEHICLES

It is unlawful to hunt from or by means of motor-driven vehicles and land conveyances or aircraft of any kind, except paraplegics and single or double amputees of legs may hunt from stationary motor-driven vehicles or land conveyances. It is unlawful to use motor-driven land, water or air conveyances or sailboats to concentrate, drive, rally or stir up any migratory game bird.

BAITING

The following baiting rules have been established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- A hunter **MAY** hunt any migratory game bird:
 - over standing crops, standing flooded crops, and flooded harvested crops
 - at any time over natural vegetation that has been manipulated
 - where seeds or grains have been scattered as a result of normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation
 - over crops or natural vegetation where grain has been inadvertently scattered as a result of entering or leaving the field, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds
 - using natural vegetation or crops to conceal a blind, provided that if crops are used, no grain or other feed is exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered in the process
 - **except waterfowl and cranes** where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of the manipulation of a crop or livestock feeding
- A hunter **MAY NOT**:
 - hunt migratory birds with the aid of bait, or on or over any baited area

- hunt over any baited area until 10 days after all baiting materials have been removed
- hunt waterfowl or cranes over manipulated planted millet, unless the millet was planted more than one year prior to hunting
- hunt waterfowl or cranes over crops that have been manipulated, unless the manipulation is a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation

NONTOXIC SHOT

No person, while hunting waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, and teal) anywhere in the state, may possess shotgun shells containing lead shot, or loose lead shot for use in muzzleloaders. Approved nontoxic shot includes steel (including copper, nickel and zinc coated steel), bismuth-tin, Tungsten-iron and any other material approved by the director of the USFWS.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Except for doves or migratory game birds processed at a cold storage or processing facility, one fully-feathered wing or the head must remain attached to migratory game birds while the birds are being transported between the place where taken and the permanent residence of the possessor. Note: Migratory game birds may be dressed for immediate cooking at a place other than a permanent residence (e.g., hunting camp). This does not include placing dressed birds in a cooler/refrigerator for later consumption while at a place other than a permanent residence. Hunters are encouraged to leave plumage on all doves other than mourning dove, white-winged dove, and white-tipped dove (e.g., exotic collared-dove) for species identification.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit of birds while in the field or while returning from the field to one’s hunting camp, automobile, or temporary lodging facility (see General Rules – Documentation). For the first day of any season the possession limit is the daily bag limit.

IMPORTATION LIMIT

It is illegal to import into the United States migratory game birds belonging to another person. The number imported from Mexico may not exceed the export limit set by the Mexican state from which they were taken.

No person may import into this state or possess migratory game birds taken outside this state, unless the possessor produces upon demand by a game warden a valid hunting license, stamp, tag, permit, or document for the state or country in which these birds were legally taken. One fully feathered wing or the head must remain attached on all migratory game birds while being transported by any means

from Mexico into Texas and must remain attached to the birds until reaching a cold storage or processing facility, or reaching the personal residence of the possessor. In lieu of the requirements set forth in this subsection, a statement from the United States Customs Officer at the port of entry showing that these birds were brought from Mexico is satisfactory.

CLOSED AREAS

There is no open season for any wild animal, wild bird, or exotic animal on public roads or the right-of-way of public roads.

CLOSED SEASONS

It is a violation to hunt or possess a freshly killed migratory game bird listed in this guide at any time other than as provided in the “OPEN SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS” below.

OPEN SEASONS, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

DOVES

- **NORTH ZONE:**
 - **Regular Season:** Sept. 1–Oct. 30, 2008. Daily Bag Limit: 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession Limit: twice the daily bag limit
- **CENTRAL ZONE:**
 - **Regular Season:** Sept. 1–Oct. 30, 2008 and Dec. 26, 2008–Jan. 4, 2009. Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession Limit: twice the daily bag limit
- **SOUTH ZONE:**
 - **Regular Season:** Sept. 20–Nov. 9, 2008 and Dec. 26, 2008–Jan. 13, 2009. Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged and white-tipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession Limit: twice the daily bag limit
- **SPECIAL WHITE-WINGED DOVE AREA:**
 - **Special Season (shooting hours: noon to sunset):** Sept. 6, 7, 13, 14, 2008. Daily Bag Limit: 12 white-winged, mourning and whitetipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 4 mourning doves and 2 whitetips. Possession Limit: twice the daily bag limit
 - **Regular Season:** Sept. 20–Nov. 9, 2008 and Dec. 26, 2008–Jan. 9, 2009. Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged and white-tipped (white-fronted) doves in the aggregate, to include not more than 2 whitetips. Possession Limit: twice the daily bag limit

ZONE BOUNDARIES

NORTH ZONE: That area north of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Fort Hancock; thence north along FM 1088 to State Hwy. 20; thence west along State Hwy. 20 to State Hwy. 148; thence north along State Hwy. 148 to Interstate Hwy. 10 at Fort Hancock; thence east along Interstate Hwy. 10 to Interstate Hwy. 20; thence northeast along Interstate Hwy. 20 to Interstate Hwy. 30 at Fort Worth; thence northeast along Interstate Hwy. 30 to the Texas-Arkansas state line.

CENTRAL ZONE: That area between the North and the South Zones.

SOUTH ZONE: That area south of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio; thence northeast along U.S. Hwy. 277 Spur to U.S. Hwy. 90 in Del Rio; thence east along U.S. Hwy. 90 to State Loop 1604; thence following Loop 1604 south and east to Interstate Hwy. 10; thence east along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the Texas-Louisiana State Line.

SPECIAL WHITE-WINGED DOVE AREA: That area of the state south and west of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio; thence northeast along U.S. Hwy. 277 Spur to U.S. Hwy. 90 in Del Rio; thence east along U.S. Hwy. 90 to State Loop 1604; thence along Loop 1604 south and east to Interstate Hwy. 35, thence south along Interstate Hwy. 35 to State Hwy. 44; thence east along State Hwy. 44 to State Hwy. 16 at Freer; thence south along State Hwy. 16 to State Hwy. 285 at Hebbronville; thence east along State Hwy. 285 to FM 1017; thence southeast along FM 1017 to State Hwy. 186 at Linn; thence east along State Hwy. 186 to the Mansfield Channel at Port Mansfield; thence east along the Mansfield Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.

