



Waterfowl Hunting Digest 2016–2017



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What’s New in 2016–2017?

- The Canada goose season will be 21 days longer in 2016–2017.
- All regular goose seasons will open on the same day (Nov. 11, 2016) and close on the same day (Feb. 6, 2017). This change will simplify goose hunting regulations and provide hunters with more concurrent days of duck and Canada goose hunting and additional days of late-season goose hunting for Canada and white-fronted geese.
- The Light Goose Conservation Order will begin on Feb. 7, 2017, instead of Feb. 1. See Page 15.



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

Mallards

Introduction to Missouri Waterfowl Hunting

Missouri waterfowl hunters now have more days and places to hunt than ever before. In the past 20 years, the Conservation Department and partners have restored tens of thousands of acres of wetland habitat. Hunters can apply for reservations or try their luck in the “poor line” at 15 Conservation Department areas managed intensively for waterfowl and wetlands. For hunters willing to scout, other conservation areas with floodplain habitat provide good hunting during periods of high water. Similarly, many rivers and reservoirs offer public hunting opportunity but require more scouting to produce successful hunts. Many hunters have invested in leasing or owning private wetlands and have contributed to the restoration of more than 150,000 acres of Wetland Reserve easements.

Hunters should keep in mind that waterfowl hunting in Missouri is influenced by habitat conditions, weather, and the timing of migrations more than overall duck and goose numbers. Regardless of weather and habitat conditions, hunters should take time to enjoy their outings. We are living in unprecedented times with record duck and goose populations, a string of 20 years of 60-day duck seasons, and goose seasons lasting longer and later than we have ever seen.

Duck and Breeding Ground Status

Wetland numbers in Prairie Canada and the United States were 21 percent lower than 2015 estimates but still similar to the long-term average. This year's estimate of 48.4 million ducks is similar to 2015 and is 38 percent above the long-term average.

- Mallard numbers are similar to 2015 and 51 percent above their long-term average.
- Blue-winged teal numbers are 22 percent lower than 2015 but remain 34 percent above their long-term average. Green-winged teal numbers are similar to 2015 and 104 percent above their long-term average.
- Northern shoveler numbers are similar to 2015 and 56 percent above their long-term average.
- Gadwall and American wigeon numbers are similar to 2015 and 90 percent and 31 percent above their long-term averages, respectively.
- Pintail numbers are similar to 2015 and 34 percent below their long-term average.
- Redhead numbers are similar to 2015 and 82 percent above their long-term average.
- Canvasback numbers are similar to 2015 and 26 percent above their long-term average.
- Scaup numbers are similar to 2015 and to their long-term average.

MCHF Helps You Invest in Your Love for Nature

Since 1997, thanks to donations from hunters like you, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation has supported many projects and events, including youth

hunting events, blinds for hunters with disabilities, wildlife habitat improvements, and conservation education. **With your help, we can do even more.** Consider making a planned gift or other donation, or purchasing a Conservation Heritage License Plate today. You may direct your contributions to the area of conservation you care most about. For more information, visit **mochf.org** or call 800-227-1488.





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2016–2017 Duck Season Date Formulas

Missouri’s duck season opening dates are currently set according to the formulas listed in the table below. These formulas provide a compromise among hunters who prefer earlier or later seasons by allowing season timing to vary by about a week over a six-year period.

Zone	Liberal (60 Days)	Moderate (45 Days)	Restrictive (30 Days)
North	Last Saturday in October	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November
Middle	1st Saturday in November	2nd Saturday in November	3rd Saturday in November
South	Thanksgiving Day	1st Saturday in December	2nd Saturday in December

Adaptive Harvest Management

Each year’s regulation recommendation is based on the status of the mallard breeding population and the condition of prairie ponds in Canada. A three-tiered package of open seasons includes liberal (60 days), moderate (45 days), and restrictive (30 days) options. For more information, go to: flyways.us/regulations-and-harvest/adaptive-harvest-management.



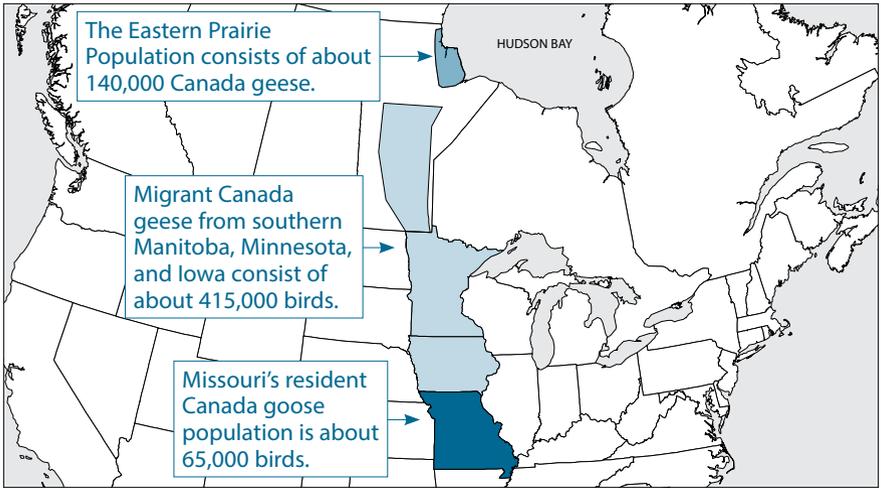
Canada geese

Longer Seasons and Simpler Goose Regulations

Hunters will have the first opportunity in modern history to hunt dark geese (Canada geese and white-fronted geese) in early February. This season marks the first since 2010 that hunters will be offered additional days to hunt Canada geese. Canada goose season length and timing is intended to provide additional opportunity for the abundant populations of giant Canada geese that migrate from southern Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa without overharvesting the much smaller breeding population of giant Canada geese that nest in Missouri. The changes implemented this year also simplify goose regulations by providing a “regular” goose season that opens and closes on the same day for all species of geese. However, these changes will result in delaying the Light Goose Conservation Order until Feb. 7. Survey results indicated that 74 percent of waterfowl hunters and 46 percent of Conservation Order participants favored delaying the Conservation Order to provide additional late-season dark goose hunting opportunity.

Report Your Bands to reportband.gov

Bands recovered and reported by hunters provide important information about survival, migration, harvest rates, and distributions for a variety of migratory game birds. To report band numbers from all types of birds (except pigeons), go online at reportband.gov or call 800-327-BAND (2263). You will receive a certificate of appreciation via email and information about the bird. The band is yours to keep.



Canada Geese in Missouri

Three populations of Canada geese are present in Missouri during the fall and winter:

- Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada geese that nest along Hudson Bay.
- Migrant giant Canada geese that nest in Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa.
- Giant Canada geese that nest in Missouri.

About 40 percent of Missouri's harvest consists of giant Canada geese that migrate into Missouri from Manitoba, Minnesota, and Iowa. Giant Canada goose production in 2016 is expected to be higher than average due to an early spring and favorable wetland conditions.

Roughly 25 percent of Missouri's harvest is composed of EPP Canada geese. Their numbers should be about average this year, though freezing rains may have negatively affected production.

About 30 percent of Missouri's harvest is made up of giant Canada geese from Missouri. Missouri's nesting population is small compared to populations in other states. For example, Missouri's spring 2015 estimate of 65,000 breeding Canada geese was more than three times smaller than Minnesota's estimate of about 200,000. After reaching a peak population of 77,000 in 2000, Missouri's resident population has been stable at about 55,000. Production in Missouri is expected to be above average due to good nesting and brooding-rearing conditions that followed an early spring.

Changes Coming to Duck Zones and Season Dates Next Year (2017–2018)

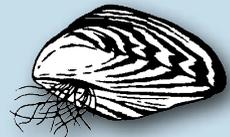
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service periodically offers states the opportunity to change duck zones and season dates. Once changes are made, Missouri keeps the same zones and season date formulas for multiple years. The Conservation Commission has approved changes to zones and season dates that will go into effect next year during the 2017–2018 waterfowl season.

The Department's goal is to establish zones and season dates that best accommodate various types of waterfowl hunters and their preferences. To do that, the Department reviewed responses from more than 3,500 individuals who completed the agency's 2014 Duck Hunter Opinion Survey, input from more than 500 hunters who attended one of the Department's 14 waterfowl hunter workshops, and numerous comments received from waterfowl hunters.

To learn more about the opinions of Missouri duck hunters regarding season dates and zone boundaries, as well as the rationale behind the changes that will go into effect next year, visit short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4r.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. Although less than 2 inches long, these invasive animals:



- Disrupt native aquatic animals and communities.
- Clog the cooling systems of boat motors, causing them to overheat.
- Plug intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- Ruin beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- Spread quickly — a single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

When moving from one water body to another:

- **Clean** all plants, animals, and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat and gear in hot water, especially crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** all water from your boat, decoys, and equipment before leaving the water body.
- **Dry** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.

Report sightings to Aquatic Habitat Specialist, 412 S. Killingsworth, Bolivar, MO 65613-1872. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

Avian Flu Information

Since December 2014, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5 viruses have affected more than 49 million birds in the United States, with most cases occurring in domestic poultry. The risk to people from HPAI infections in wild birds is low. In Missouri, this disease has been found in both domestic poultry operations and wild birds.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is working with federal and state agencies to monitor waterfowl for HPAI viruses. As part of this national effort, sampling will be conducted during fall 2016 at several Department waterfowl areas. Sampling activities will be announced during the area's morning draw. On those days, hunters will be asked to consider having their harvested birds tested.

For more information, contact the Conservation Department's Wildlife Health Program at 573-815-7900 or visit on.doi.gov/2bGNGnW.

Proper Handling of Game Birds

Follow these practices when handling or cleaning wild birds:

- Do not handle or eat birds that are obviously sick or birds that were found dead. Contact your local conservation agent or Conservation Department office if you find sick or dead birds. For contact information, see Page 30 of this booklet or visit mdc.mo.gov.
- Work in a well-ventilated area or upwind of harvested game birds to minimize exposure to airborne particles from dust, feathers, or dander.
- Wear rubber gloves when handling birds.
- Wash hands with soap and water or alcohol-based disinfectant and disinfect tools and equipment after handling birds.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling birds.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
- Cook game birds to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Contact your healthcare provider if you develop fever or other flu-like symptoms and let them know that you have had recent contact with wild birds.

Permit and Stamp Requirements

To pursue, take, possess, and transport ducks, coots, and geese in Missouri, except during the Light Goose Conservation Order, a hunter must possess and carry the following, unless exempt:

1) **Missouri permit¹ to hunt small game is required of:**

- Missouri residents age 16 through 64
- Nonresidents age 16 and older

An annual permit is available to residents for \$10 and nonresidents for \$80. A daily permit is also available to nonresidents for \$11 per day.

Exemption: Missouri resident landowners as defined in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* hunting on their own land do not need a Missouri small game hunting permit, but the Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit and Federal Duck Stamp are required (see below).

2) **Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit¹ is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older

This permit is available for \$6. Purchase of this permit satisfies requirements for Migratory Game Bird Harvest Registration.

3) **Federal Duck Stamp is required of:**

- Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older

Duck stamps are available online and at some U.S. Post Offices and permit vendors (see Page 11). To be valid, a paper duck stamp must be signed in ink across the face.

Permit Requirements for Hunters Younger Than 16

Resident and nonresident hunters age 15 and younger are not required to purchase any permits in Missouri to hunt ducks, coots, or geese during the regular season or light geese during the Conservation Order, but they must:

- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult hunter age 18 or older who has a valid hunter-education certification card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967;
- Or possess a valid hunter-education certification card.

Note: During the Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, all youth hunters must be in the immediate presence of an adult. See Page 14.

¹All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967, must complete an approved hunter-education course and display their certification card before purchasing any firearms hunting permits unless permits are purchased using an Apprentice Hunter Authorization (see Page 13).

Where to Purchase Permits

Purchase hunting permits:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor. No surcharges will be assessed.
- Online anytime at **mdc.mo.gov/permits**. Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.
- From your smartphone using the free MO Hunting app (see Page 12). Use your credit card to pay. No surcharges will be assessed. Your permit will appear on the app immediately after purchase.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card and pay a \$1 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery.

Note: Hunting permits are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.

Where to Purchase Duck Stamps

In 2014, several changes were made to where and how Federal Duck Stamps are sold.

- Duck stamps are no longer sold at waterfowl hunting areas, except for Columbia Bottom.
- Many permit vendors, such as hunting equipment retailers, no longer sell traditional (paper) duck stamps. However, all permit vendors offer electronic duck stamps (see next bullet).
- You may now buy duck stamps online at **mdc.mo.gov/permits**, from a retail permit vendor, or through the MO Hunting app (see Page 12). An electronic duck stamp (e-Stamp) will be issued to you, and a paper duck stamp will be mailed to you. The e-Stamp may be used immediately and is valid for 45 days. After 45 days, you must sign and carry the paper duck stamp that is mailed to you. The cost of an e-Stamp is \$28.50, which includes a \$3.50 handling fee. This fee is set and fully retained by the federal government. If you do not receive your paper duck stamp, please contact Amplex customer service at 800-852-4897.
- Traditional (paper) duck stamps may be purchased for \$25 at some U.S. Post Offices and some Conservation Department offices. Please contact the office before you visit to ask if duck stamps are available.

Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by duck stamp sales goes directly to purchasing or leasing wetland habitat. Since 1934, duck stamp funds have been used to acquire more than 6 million acres of wetland habitat. This habitat provides homes for countless wildlife species and places for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy.

Replacing Permits

If you lose your permit, simply download the MO Hunting app to your Android or Apple mobile device, log in with your Conservation ID number, and a valid, electronic version of your permit will appear on the app. Any active, valid permit can be reprinted at home for free at mdc.mo.gov/buypermits. Replacement permits can also be purchased from any vendor for \$2.

MDC's MO Hunting App Makes Permits Easy

You have a quick, easy, and convenient option for carrying your permits afield. The Conservation Department's popular MO Hunting app is now even better. The free app, which is available for Apple and Android mobile devices, was updated in 2015. Combined with its previous functionality, the updated app allows you to:

- Purchase permits and duck stamps.
- See all the hunting, fishing, and trapping permits you have purchased – even if they were purchased from a traditional vendor, online, or by telephone.
- Carry valid, electronic permits afield. **Note:** The MO Hunting app will display your purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp, but you must sign and carry a paper duck stamp afield after your 45-day e-Stamp has expired. See Page 11.

To log in to MO Hunting, you'll need your Conservation Number. This nine-digit number can be found on the back of your Heritage Card next to the bar code or on any current or previous permit. For help locating your Conservation Number, call 573-751-4115 during regular business hours and ask for Permit Services, or go to short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkH.

MO Hunting is available in the Google Play and iTunes stores. You can also get MO Hunting and learn more about the app at mdc.mo.gov/mobile/mobile-apps.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at short.mdc.mo.gov/ZkV.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)
- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Any honorably discharged military veteran having a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service; must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while hunting and purchasing permits.
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center; must carry orders showing such assignment while hunting and purchasing permits.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, postsecondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status, such as a student ID, while hunting.
Note: Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and who do not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before purchasing a permit.

Apprentice Hunter Authorization

Hunters age 16 and older who are not hunter-education certified may hunt with firearms, as long as they:

- First purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization;
- Then purchase permits for the season they want to hunt; and
- Hunt in the immediate presence of a properly licensed adult who has a valid hunter-education certification card or was born before Jan. 1, 1967.

Note: The Apprentice Hunter Authorization by itself does not allow you to hunt. It only allows those who have not completed a hunter-education course to purchase firearms permits. The Apprentice Hunter Authorization can be purchased for no more than two years.

Daily Bag Limits

See back cover for season dates and shooting hours.

Coots 15 daily and 45 in possession

Ducks 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

Mallards	4, but no more than 2 females
Scaup	3
Wood ducks	3
Canvasbacks	2
Hooded mergansers.	2
Pintails	2
Redheads	2
Black ducks	1
Mottled ducks	1

The **possession limit** for ducks is 18 (three times the daily bag limit; varies by species.)

Geese

Snow, blue, and Ross's (all species combined)	20
Canada and brant (both species combined)	3
White-fronted.	2

The **possession limits** for brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese are three times the daily bag limit (varies by species). There is no possession limit for snow, blue, and Ross's geese.

Note: Each hunter must keep his or her harvested waterfowl separate or distinctly identifiable from the harvests of other hunters.

Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days

In 2016, there are two Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days in each zone for ducks, geese, and coots. Youth hunters must be:

- Age 15 or younger;
- Accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older who is not allowed to hunt ducks during Youth Waterfowl-Hunting Days, but who can participate in other open seasons.

No permits are required for youth hunters. If the youth possesses a valid hunter-education certification card, the accompanying adult does not need a permit or hunter-education certification. However, if the youth is not hunter-education certified, the accompanying adult must be hunter-education certified unless they were born before Jan. 1, 1967, and the adult must possess a Missouri permit to hunt small game or be exempt.

See back cover for season dates. Shooting hours and limits are the same as during the regular duck, goose, and coot seasons.



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Snow geese

Light Goose Conservation Order

A Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 7–April 30, 2017. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented this Conservation Order to reduce numbers of snow (including their blue color phase) and Ross's geese because the geese have increased in number and are causing damage to the fragile Arctic tundra. During the Conservation Order there is no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Residents and nonresidents age 16 and older need only a Conservation Order Permit to hunt snow, blue, and Ross's geese during the Conservation Order. This permit costs \$5 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters with a Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit or a Resident Lifetime Small Game Hunting Permit do not need to purchase a Conservation Order Permit. See Page 10 for permit requirements for hunters age 15 and younger.

Note: A Missouri small game hunting permit, Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Federal Duck Stamp are not required during the Conservation Order.

Falconry Season for Ducks and Coots

Season Dates and Hunting Hours:

- Sept. 10–25, 2016, statewide with hunting hours from sunrise to sunset
- During youth and regular duck seasons (see back cover for the dates of each zone) with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset
- Feb. 10–March 10, 2017, statewide with hunting hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

The **daily bag limit** shall not exceed 3 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate. The **possession limit** shall not exceed 9 birds (including doves) singly or in the aggregate.

Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

The Conservation Department offers managed waterfowl hunting on 15 conservation areas, which are listed on pages 18 and 19. Some of these areas have permanent blinds, and others provide opportunities for hunters to wade in or hunt from boat blinds. Most have disabled-accessible blinds. There are four ways to obtain a hunting spot on a managed waterfowl-hunting area:

- Missouri residents may apply online for a reservation at 12 conservation areas. A reservation guarantees successful applicants a place to hunt on a specific day at a specific area. Applications are accepted from Sept. 1–18.
- Missouri residents may use the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. Quick Draw provides hunters the option of applying twice a week, once for hunts occurring Friday through Monday, and once for hunts occurring Tuesday through Thursday. Quick Draw begins accepting applications a week before the opening of waterfowl season. Hunters who apply and are drawn using Quick Draw receive a guaranteed position in line for their hunt. To learn more, visit mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw.
- Residents and nonresidents can hunt with a reservation holder or a successful Quick Draw applicant. Hunting parties are limited to four people.
- Residents and nonresidents can arrive at a managed waterfowl-hunting area and draw for a spot in the morning drawing or “poor line.” Twenty-five percent of the positions at Quick Draw areas and 50 percent of the positions at the other 12 areas are set aside for daily poor-line drawings. Many positions from reservation holders and Quick Draw hunters who do not show up are also included in the poor-line drawing.

To view a series of videos that offer additional details about these procedures, visit short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4n.

Hunters may reserve disabled-accessible blinds using the Quick Draw system at Eagle Bluffs, Grand Pass, and Otter Slough. On all other areas, hunters must call the area or the area’s designated ADA phone number (see phone numbers on Page 19) to reserve a disabled-accessible blind. When arriving at an area to claim a blind, hunters must show a Hunting Method Exemption or Department of Revenue hangtag. For additional information, visit short.mdc.mo.gov/Z4e.

Managed Waterfowl Hunting

Hunters will be able to provide input this fall about managed waterfowl hunting in Missouri. Watch for information at managed waterfowl-hunting areas.



How the Morning Drawing Works

Hunters who are using the poor line to draw for a hunting spot will use the “Every Member Draws” (EMD) procedure at seven managed waterfowl-hunting areas (see map on Page 18). At EMD areas, every person in a hunting party draws a numbered block or “pill.” The party uses its lowest number to determine its place in line to pick a hunting spot. On highly used waterfowl areas, the EMD system puts more hunters in the marsh by creating an incentive for hunters to team up with family and friends instead of hunting alone.

Areas not using EMD use the “One Member Draws” (OMD) procedure. At OMD areas, one member from each hunting party pulls a pill to determine the hunting party’s place in line. Areas that use OMD generally turn fewer hunters away and would not benefit from EMD.

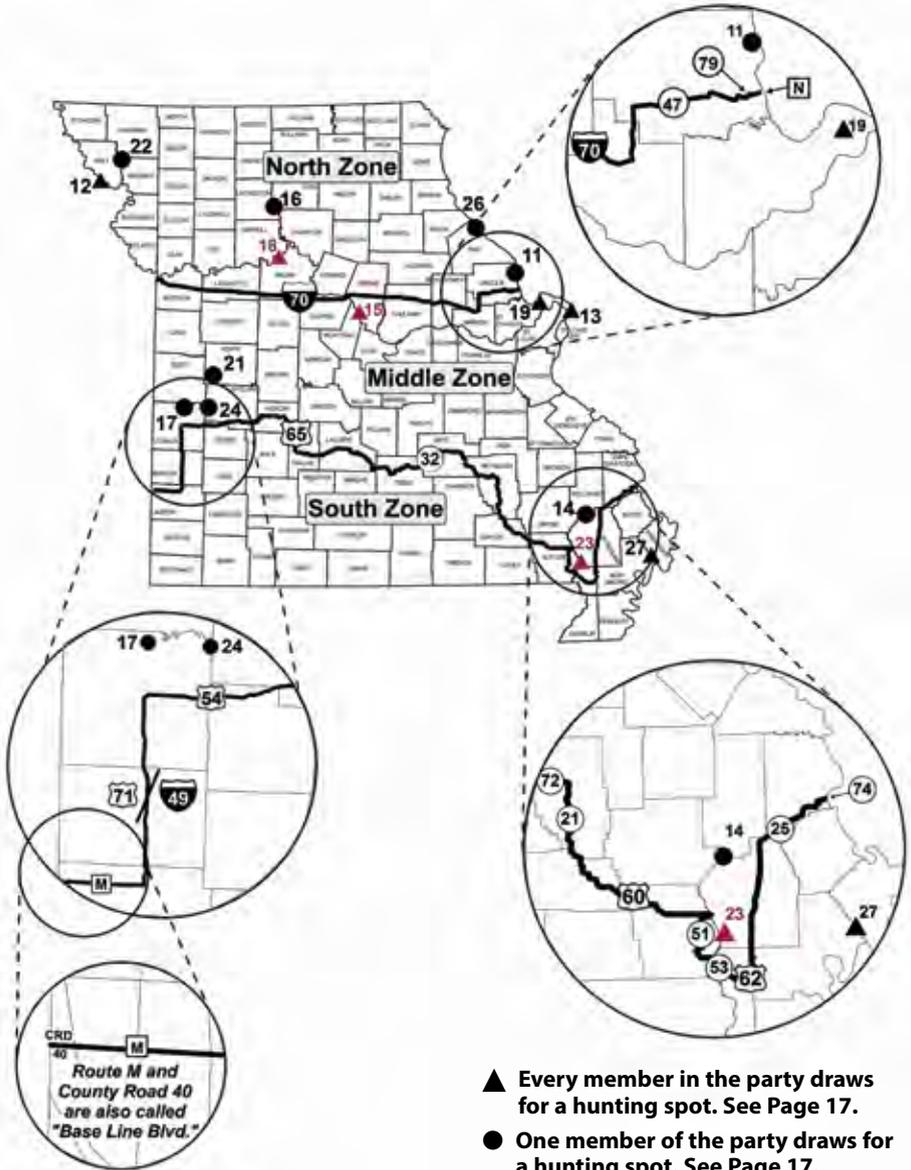
After the pills are drawn, the lowest number gets first choice of the available hunting locations, followed by the second-lowest number, and so on until all available hunting spots are assigned. On some days, there may be more hunters than hunting locations, so it’s possible that not everyone in the poor line will get a spot to hunt.

Online Hunting Reports

For hunting reports that are updated twice a week, results of waterfowl counts conducted every other week, and a wealth of other information about waterfowl hunting in Missouri, go to **short.mdc.mo.gov/ZoJ**.

Hunting Zones and Managed Waterfowl-Hunting Areas

For a listing of the roads that define zone boundaries, see the migratory game birds and waterfowl section in Chapter 7 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* at sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.



- ▲ Every member in the party draws for a hunting spot. See Page 17.
- One member of the party draws for a hunting spot. See Page 17.

Areas denoted in red use Quick Draw (mdc.mo.gov/quickdraw).

- 11 B. K. Leach CA** (4,307 acres; Lincoln County) 573-898-5905. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind (636-441-4554); boats provided where needed; 1 p.m. closure. Drawing held at Kings Lake Tract off Norton Woods Road.
- 12 Bob Brown CA ▲** (3,307 acres; Holt County) 660-446-2694. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 13 Columbia Bottom CA ▲** (4,318 acres; St. Louis County) 314-877-6014. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; permits and stamps; 1 p.m. closure.
- 14 Duck Creek CA** (6,318 acres; Bollinger, Stoddard, and Wayne counties) 573-222-3337. Walk-in hunting; water blinds in timber pools; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for timber blinds only; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas. **Note:** Water availability may cause a delay in flooding Timber Pools 2, 3, and 8.
- 15 Eagle Bluffs CA ▲** (4,428 acres; Boone County) 573-445-3882. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 2 ADA blinds; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 16 Fountain Grove CA** (7,906 acres; Linn and Livingston counties) 660-938-4124. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 17 Four Rivers CA** (13,929 acres; Vernon and Bates counties) 417-395-2341. Units 1 and 2 have 8 shooting pools. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps in most pools; camping; open all day.
- 18 Grand Pass CA ▲** (5,301 acres; Saline County) 660-595-2444. Walk-in hunting; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boat ramps at most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 19 Marais Temps Clair CA ▲** (918 acres; St. Charles County) 314-877-6014. Open to waterfowl hunting Friday–Monday only. Walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; 1 p.m. closure.
- 21 Montrose CA** (2,750 acres; Henry County) 660-693-4666. Water blinds; walk-in hunting; 1 ADA blind; boat ramp; camping; open all day.
- 22 Nodaway Valley CA** (3,881 acres; Holt and Andrew counties) 660-446-3371. Walk-in hunting; 4 water blinds; 1 ADA blind (816-271-3100); boat ramps in most pools; camping; 1 p.m. closure on west side; all-day hunting on east side.
- 23 Otter Slough CA ▲** (4,866 acres; Stoddard County) 573-624-5821. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; water blinds; temporary blinds only; 1 ADA blind; boats provided for blinds only; boat ramps; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 24 Schell-Osage CA** (8,633 acres; Vernon and St. Clair counties) 417-432-3414. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 2 ADA blinds; field hunting for geese; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure in designated areas.
- 26 Ted Shanks CA** (6,705 acres; Pike County) 573-248-2530. Walk-in hunting; water blinds; 1 ADA blind; boats provided; boat ramp; camping; 1 p.m. closure.
- 27 Ten Mile Pond CA ▲** (3,755 acres; Mississippi County) 573-649-2770. Walk-in hunting; field hunting for geese; temporary blinds only; boat ramp; open all day.

Federal Regulations Summary

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the hunting of migratory game birds. **Note:** This is only a summary. For more information, visit ecfr.gov, where a complete version of Title 50, Part 20 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* can be found. When state law is different from federal law, hunters must follow the more restrictive law.

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 capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low-floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- 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 from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys. 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 wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- By the aid of baiting (placing grain, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or attraction), or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of bait. The following do not constitute baited areas or baiting: standing crops or flooded standing crops; standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; lands where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice; hunting from a blind or other place of concealment that is camouflaged with natural veg-

etation or vegetation from agricultural crops as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing or scattering of grain. Normal agricultural practices must be conducted in accordance with recommendations of the State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture — Cooperative Extension Service. A normal agricultural planting is undertaken for the purpose of producing a crop. Waterfowl may not be hunted over freshly planted wildlife food plots where grain or seed has been distributed, scattered, or exposed because these plots are not normal agricultural plantings or normal soil stabilization practices.

WANTON WASTE: No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in one's actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's 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.

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) one's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) one's 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.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS: No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than one's personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

CUSTODY OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

TERMINATION OF POSSESSION: Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by the hunter to a post office, a com-

mon carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

GIFT OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: No person may receive, possess, or give to another any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were taken.

TRANSPORTATION OF BIRDS OF ANOTHER: No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT: No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

MARKING PACKAGE OR CONTAINER: No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

NONTOXIC SHOT: Shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide must be approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of August 2016, shot types approved as being nontoxic are:

- Bismuth-tin
- Copper-clad iron
- Iron (steel)
- Iron-tungsten
- Iron-tungsten-nickel
- Tungsten-bronze (two types)
- Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- Tungsten-iron-polymer
- Tungsten-matrix
- Tungsten-polymer
- Tungsten-tin-bismuth
- Tungsten-tin-iron
- Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel

Suggested Shot Size Selection for Waterfowl

Waterfowl species	Minimum	Typical hunting conditions	Minimum desired pattern density (hits/30" circle)
Small/medium ducks	6 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	3-4 steel 4-6 bismuth 4-6 tungsten alloy	120
Large ducks	4 steel 6 bismuth 6 tungsten alloy	2-3 steel 4 bismuth 4-6 tungsten alloy	90
Small geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	1-BB steel 2 bismuth 2 tungsten alloy	60
Large geese	2 steel 2 bismuth 4 tungsten alloy	BB-BBB steel 1-BB bismuth 2-BB tungsten alloy	50

Close range is less than 35 yards; all shots should be limited to less than 45 yards. Velocity on all loads should be a minimum of 1,225 FPS.

When Hunting From a Boat

In 2015, a duck hunter drowned when his boat capsized at Four Rivers Conservation Area. Boating safety is an important aspect of duck hunting, especially in the frigid weather often encountered during waterfowl season. Follow these practices to ensure your hunt doesn't end in tragedy.

- When using a boat with a motor, including a layout boat, special state statutes apply. See mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/WaterPatrol.
- Leave a detailed float plan with family or friends.
- Check the weather forecast. High winds can be dangerous.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Load gear low in the boat and distribute the weight evenly.
- Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times.
- If using chest waders, wear a belt to keep them from filling with water.
- Carry a throwable flotation device in case someone falls overboard.
- Transport firearms unloaded, cased, and with the action open.
- At the first sign of a storm, head for shore.
- Exercise additional caution when boating through flood waters.

If your boat swamps or capsizes:

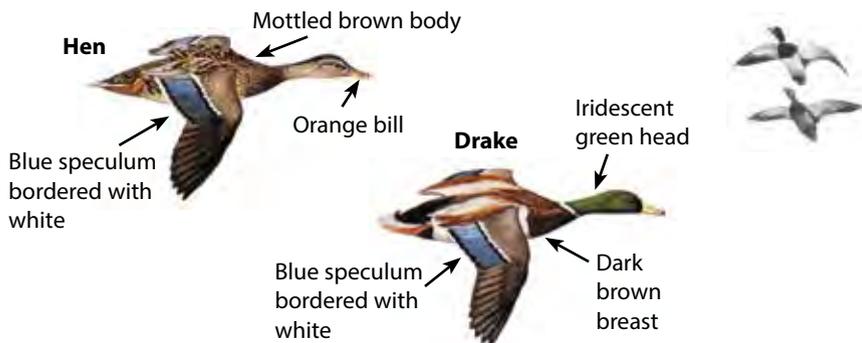
- Stay with the boat, and use distress signals.
- To retain body heat, pull your knees to your chest and keep your elbows to your sides.
- To stay afloat, place oars under your knees and behind your back.
- If decoys are in reach, stuff them inside your jacket.

Duck Identification

The daily bag limit is 6 ducks with the following species restrictions:

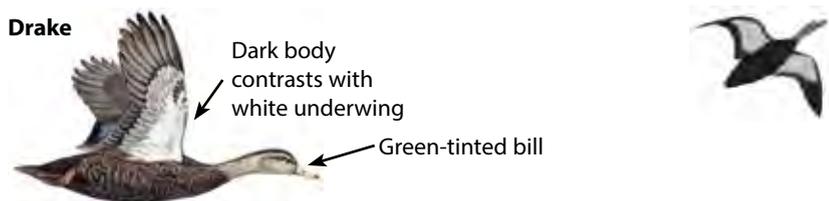
Mallard ■ 4 in the daily bag, but only 2 hens

Mallards, or “greenheads,” are Missouri’s most common duck. Hens have a loud *quack*; drakes give a lower-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



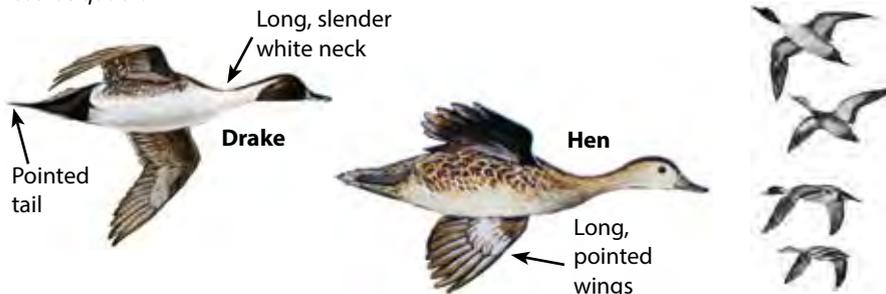
American Black Duck ■ 1 in the daily bag

Male and female black ducks are similar in size, flight, voice, and coloration to mallard hens. To avoid confusion, look for the white underwing and the green-tinted bill.



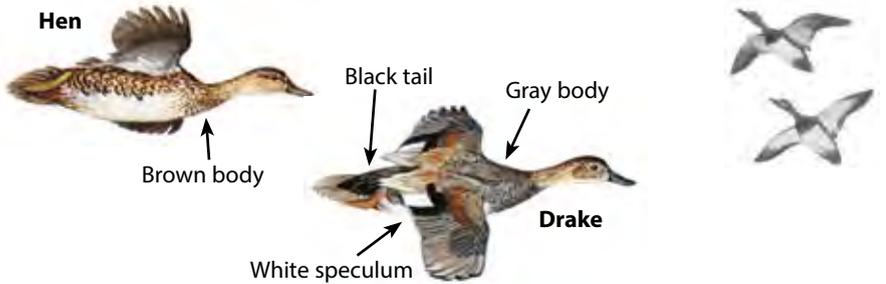
Northern Pintail ■ 2 in the daily bag

These slender ducks fly fast and often zigzag from great heights before leveling off to land. They may be seen in flocks with mallards. Drakes whistle; hens give a coarse *quack*.



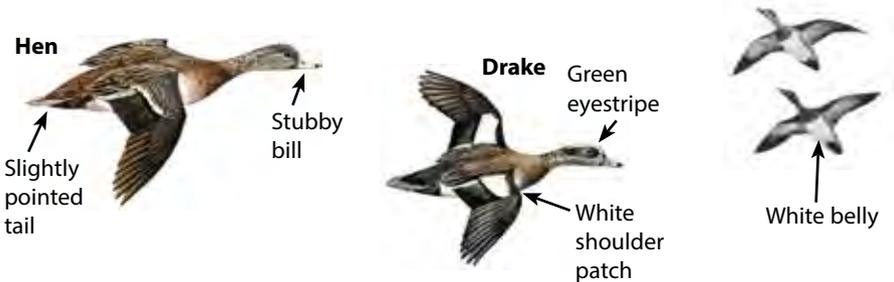
Gadwall ■ 6 in the daily bag

These early migrants fly in small, compact flocks. They are the only dabbling duck with a white speculum. Note, however, that wigeon drakes have white shoulder patches.



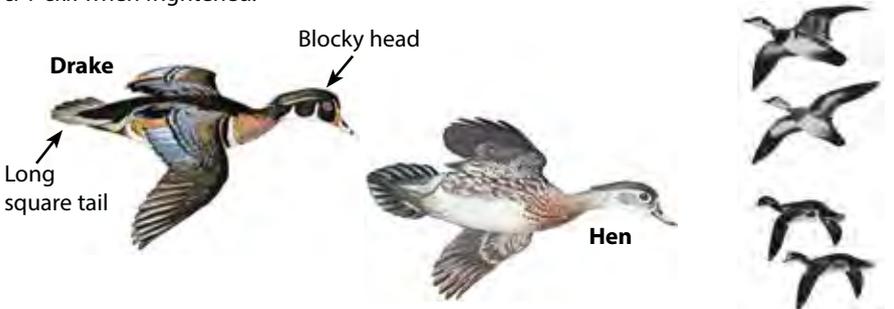
American Wigeon ■ 6 in the daily bag

The green eyestripe and white belly and shoulder patch helps identify wigeon drakes. Hens are generally brown. Both sexes have stubby bills and slightly pointed tails.



Wood Duck ■ 3 in the daily bag

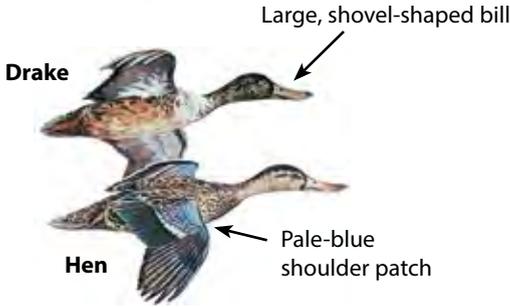
The drake wood duck is Missouri's most colorful duck. While flying, their wings make a rustling, swishing sound. Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often in flight; hens give a wailing *cr-r-ekk* when frightened.



Duck Identification

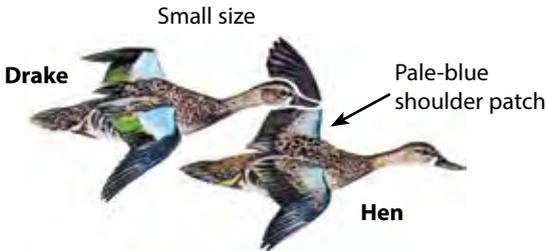
Northern Shoveler ■ 6 in the daily bag

The large spoon-shaped bill helps identify this duck. Shovelers often form mixed flocks with blue-winged teal. Both species have pale-blue shoulder patches, but shovelers are larger.



Blue-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

These swift-flying early migrants are normally far south of Missouri by the time the regular waterfowl season opens. However, a few stragglers may show up throughout the fall.



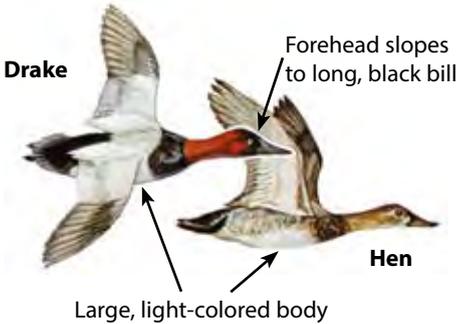
Green-Winged Teal ■ 6 in the daily bag

Green-winged teal are North America's smallest duck. Their size, rapid flight, and iridescent-green wing patches help identify these ducks.



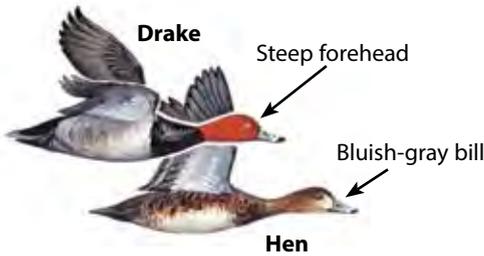
Canvasback ■ 2 in the daily bag

Canvasbacks have a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The bill, lighter coloration, and large size distinguish this duck from the similar-looking redhead.



Redhead ■ 2 in the daily bag

Redheads are most often confused with canvasbacks, but in flight they also look similar to ringnecks and scaup. Note the steep forehead and short, bluish-gray bill.

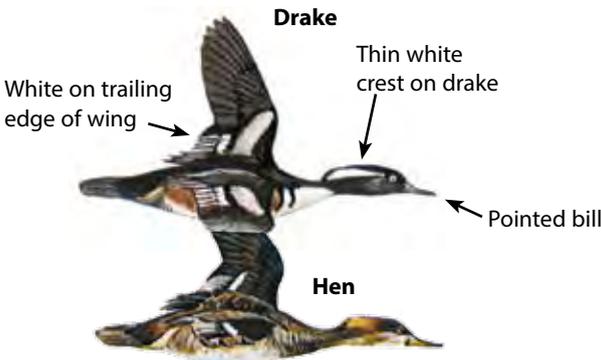


Smaller than canvasback



Hooded Merganser ■ 2 in the daily bag

The rapid wing strokes of hooded mergansers give the impression of great speed. Mergansers are often seen in pairs or very small flocks.



Duck Identification

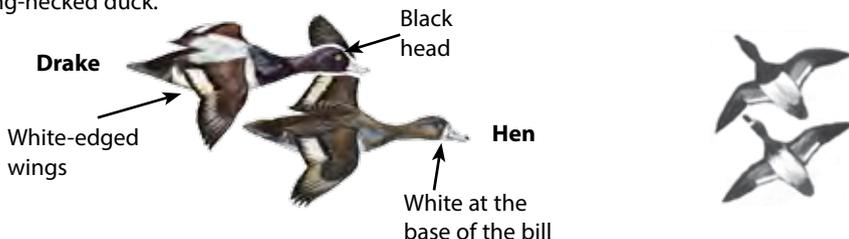
Ring-Necked Duck (Ringneck) ■ 6 in the daily bag

This diver can be confused with scaup and redheads. In flight, the dark wings of ringnecks are different from the white-edged wings of scaup. The bold white ring at the tip of the bill is usually conspicuous.



Greater and Lesser Scaup ■ 3 in the daily bag

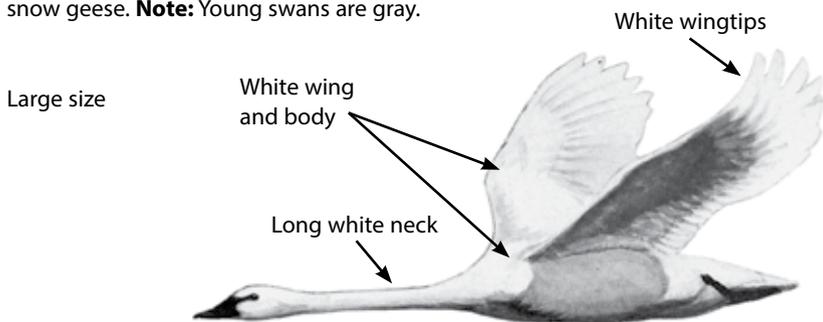
Except for the wings, greater and lesser scaup appear almost identical in the field. The white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the wing tip in greater scaup, but only halfway in the lesser. Do not confuse scaup with the similar-looking ring-necked duck.



Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter swans are protected by federal and state laws and may not be shot!

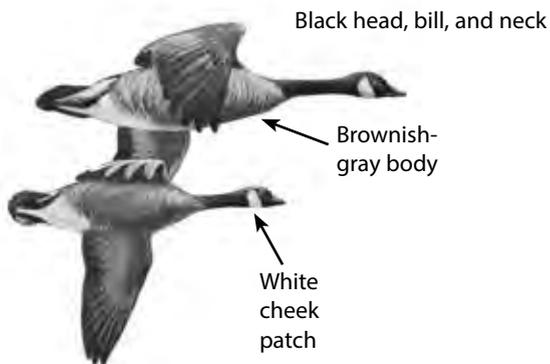
Trumpeter swans are twice the size of Canada geese and four times the size of snow geese. **Note:** Young swans are gray.



Goose Identification

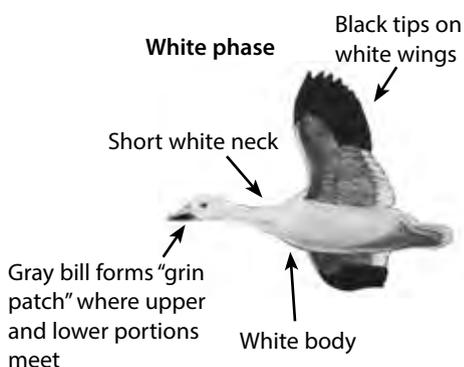
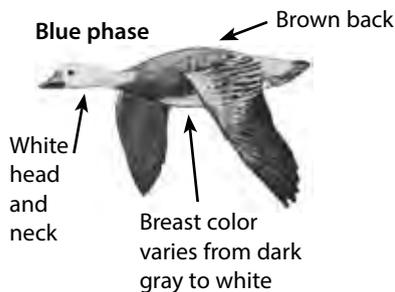
Canada Goose ■ 3 in the daily bag

Canada geese are often called “honkers” because of their distinctive call. The black head and neck, white cheek patch, and brownish-gray body are distinctive.



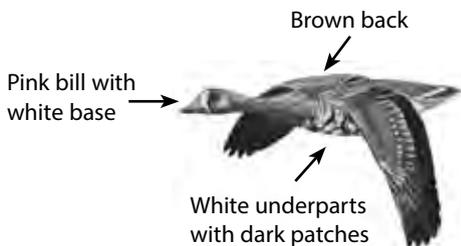
Snow Goose and Ross's Goose ■ 20 in the daily bag

Snow geese have two color phases: white and blue. Ross's geese appear nearly identical to snow geese, but have a shorter bill with no “grin patch.”



White-Fronted Goose ■ 2 in the daily bag

White-fronted geese, or “speckle-bellies,” fly in V-shaped flocks. Their call is a laugh-like series of high-pitched paired notes. **Note:** Immature white-fronted geese and immature snow geese appear similar. Immature white-fronted geese have pink bills, orange legs, and black tails. Immature snow geese have gray bills, gray legs, and white tails.





**Interim Director,
Department of Conservation
Tom A. Draper**

The Conservation Commission

Don C. Bedell
James T. Blair, IV
Marilynn J. Bradford
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**Missouri Department of
Conservation**

**PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
573-751-4115**

mdc.mo.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 573-751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contact Information



Central Region

3500 East Gans Road
Columbia, MO 65201
573-815-7900

Kansas City Region

12405 SE Ranson Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64082
816-622-0900

Northeast Region

3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-785-2420

Northwest Region

701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-271-3100

Ozark Region

551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
417-256-7161

Southeast Region

2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-290-5730

Southwest Region

2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield, MO 65803
417-895-6880

St. Louis Region

2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-441-4554

Sunrise and Sunset at Jefferson City, Mo.

Central Standard Time

DAY	OCT. 2016		NOV. 2016		DEC. 2016		JAN. 2017		FEB. 2017	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.								
1	7:05	6:51	7:36	6:08	7:08	4:48	7:26	4:59	7:14	5:31
2	7:06	6:49	7:37	6:07	7:09	4:48	7:27	5:00	7:13	5:32
3	7:07	6:48	7:38	6:06	7:10	4:48	7:27	5:00	7:12	5:33
4	7:08	6:46	7:39	6:05	7:11	4:48	7:27	5:01	7:11	5:35
5	7:09	6:45	7:40	6:04	7:12	4:47	7:27	5:02	7:10	5:36
6	7:10	6:43	6:41	5:03	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:03	7:09	5:37
7	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:13	4:47	7:27	5:04		
8	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:47	7:27	5:05		
9	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48	7:26	5:06		
10	7:13	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48	7:26	5:07		
11	7:14	6:36	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:08		
12	7:15	6:34	6:48	4:58	7:17	4:48	7:26	5:09		
13	7:16	6:33	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48	7:25	5:10		
14	7:17	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:11		
15	7:18	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:19	4:49	7:25	5:12		
16	7:19	6:28	6:52	4:55	7:20	4:49	7:24	5:13		
17	7:20	6:27	6:53	4:54	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:14		
18	7:21	6:26	6:55	4:53	7:21	4:50	7:24	5:15		
19	7:22	6:24	6:56	4:53	7:22	4:50	7:23	5:16		
20	7:23	6:23	6:57	4:52	7:22	4:51	7:23	5:18		
21	7:24	6:22	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51	7:22	5:19		
22	7:25	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:23	4:52	7:21	5:20		
23	7:26	6:19	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:52	7:21	5:21		
24	7:27	6:18	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53	7:20	5:22		
25	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:54	7:20	5:23		
26	7:30	6:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54	7:19	5:24		
27	7:31	6:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55	7:18	5:25		
28	7:32	6:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:27		
29	7:33	6:12	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:28		
30	7:34	6:10	7:07	4:48	7:26	4:57	7:16	5:29		
31	7:35	6:09			7:26	4:58	7:15	5:30		

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. **Sunrise and sunset from Oct. 1 to Nov. 5 have been converted to daylight saving time.** To calculate the sunrise and sunset times anywhere in the United States, visit the U.S. Naval Observatory website: www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications.

2016–2017 Waterfowl Seasons

Zone	Youth Hunt	Ducks and Coots	Early Canada Geese and Brant	Canada Geese, Brant, White-Fronted Geese, Snow Geese, and Ross's Geese
North	Oct. 22–23	Oct. 29–Dec. 27	Oct. 1–9	New! Nov. 11–Feb. 6
Middle	Oct. 29–30	Nov. 5–Jan. 3		
South	Nov. 19–20	Nov. 24–Jan. 22		

The **Light Goose Conservation Order** will be in effect from **Feb. 7 through April 30, 2017**, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt. See Page 15 for details.

Shooting Hours 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

Daily Bag Limits

Coots

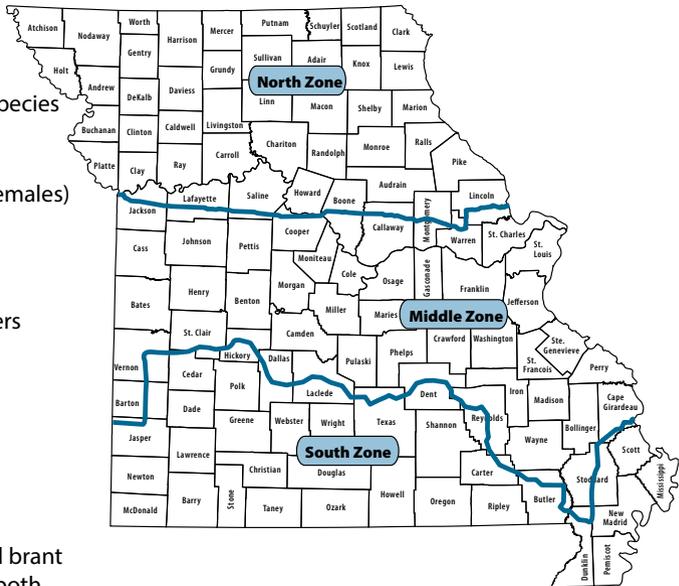
15 coots daily

Ducks

- 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:
- 4 mallards
(no more than 2 females)
- 3 scaup
- 3 wood ducks
- 2 canvasbacks
- 2 hooded mergansers
- 2 pintails
- 2 redheads
- 1 black duck
- 1 mottled duck

Geese

- 20 light geese
- 3 Canada geese and brant
(combined total of both species)
- 2 white-fronted geese



For permit information, see pages 10–13.

Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit for ducks, coots, brant, Canada geese, and white-fronted geese. Light geese have no possession limit.