

**2025-2026 Migratory Bird Seasons**  
**Approved by the DNR Board**  
**March 28, 2025**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>OPEN DATES (All Dates Inclusive)</b>	<b>SHOOTING HOURS</b>	<b>DAILY BAG LIMIT</b>	<b>POSSESSION LIMIT</b>
MOURNING DOVE	Sept. 1--Oct. 4, 2025 Nov. 15--Nov. 29, 2025 Dec. 22, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	45
MARSH HENS/RAILS (King, Clapper, Sora & Virginia)	Sept. 8--Sept. 12, 2025 Oct. 6--Dec. 9, 2025	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15 (King & Clapper) 25 (Sora & Va.)	45(King & Clapper) 75 (Sora & Va.)
EARLY TEAL	Sept. 20--Sept. 28, 2025	Sunrise until Sunset	6	18
WOODCOCK	Dec. 18, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	3	9
COMMON SNIPE (Wilson's)	Nov. 14, 2025--Feb. 28, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	8	24
COMMON MOORHENS & PURPLE GALLINULES	Sept. 8--Sept. 12, 2025 Oct. 6--Dec. 9, 2025	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	45
EARLY CANADA GEESE	Sept. 1--Sept.30	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	45
*DUCKS (Including Sea Ducks) (There is no open season for harlequin ducks)	Nov. 22--Nov. 29, 2025 Dec. 12, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	6 total not to include more than: 4 mallards (2 hens), 2 black ducks*, 3 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 black-bellied whistling duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders (1 hen)). The 6 total shall include no more than 2 scaup for the period Nov 15, Nov. 22--29, 2025 and Dec. 12--Dec. 22, 2025, Feb 7 & Feb 14, 2026. The 6 total shall include no more than 1 scaup for the period Dec. 23, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026.	18 total for all other ducks, not to include more than 3 times the daily bag limit for any given species.
MERGANERS	Nov. 22--Nov. 29, 2025 Dec. 12, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	5 (not to include more than 1 Hooded Merganser)	15 (not to include more than 3 Hooded Mergansers)
COOTS	Nov. 22--Nov. 29, 2025 Dec. 12, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	15	45
CANADA GEESE/ WHITE FRONTED GEESE (Late Seasons)	Nov. 22--Nov. 29, 2025 Dec. 12, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026 Feb. 15--Mar. 1, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	5 (not to include more than 2 white-fronted geese)	15 (not to include more than 6 white-fronted geese)
BLUE and SNOW GEESE	Nov. 22--Nov. 29, 2025 Dec. 12, 2025--Jan. 31, 2026 Feb. 15--Mar. 1, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	25	No Limit
BRANT	Jan. 2--Jan. 31, 2026	1/2 Hour before Sunrise until Sunset	1	3

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**\*Black ducks/mottled ducks, the limit is as follows:** For areas east of I-95, one black duck or one mottled duck in the total bag of no more than six. For areas west of I-95, two black ducks or one black duck and one mottled duck in the total bag of no more than six.

**State Youth Day: Nov. 15, 2025 (Legal Species: Ducks, mergansers, coots.)** Only youth who are 17 years of age or younger may hunt, but they must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age who is fully licensed. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, who hunt on this day, must possess a Migratory Bird Permit and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as indicated for regular seasons, except the scaup limit is two.

**Federal Youth Days: Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, 2026 (Legal Species: Ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules.)** Only hunters 17 years of age or younger may hunt on these days, but they must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years of age. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age, who hunt on these days, must possess a valid South Carolina hunting license, Migratory Bird Permit, Migratory Waterfowl Permit, and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as indicated for regular seasons, except the scaup limit is two.

**Veteran/Active Duty Personnel Military Days: Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, 2026 (Legal Species: Ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules.)** Veterans and active duty military personnel who hunt on this day must possess a valid South Carolina hunting license, Migratory Bird Permit, Migratory Waterfowl Permit, and a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Daily and possession bag limits are the same as indicated for regular seasons, except the scaup limit is two.

**Sea Duck Area and Duck Limits Within this Area:** The sea duck area is the Atlantic Ocean waters separated from any shore, island or emergent vegetation by at least one mile of open water. In this area, the sea duck limit is 4 with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen) or 3 long-tailed ducks. The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a vessel under motor power in the sea duck area is allowed.

**Extended Falconry Season:** Falconry is a permitted means of taking ducks, coots and mergansers in South Carolina. The extended season for falconry shall be **Nov. 3 -- 21, 2025 and Dec. 1 -- 11, 2025**. Daily bag and possession limits for these birds shall not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. Statewide hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.