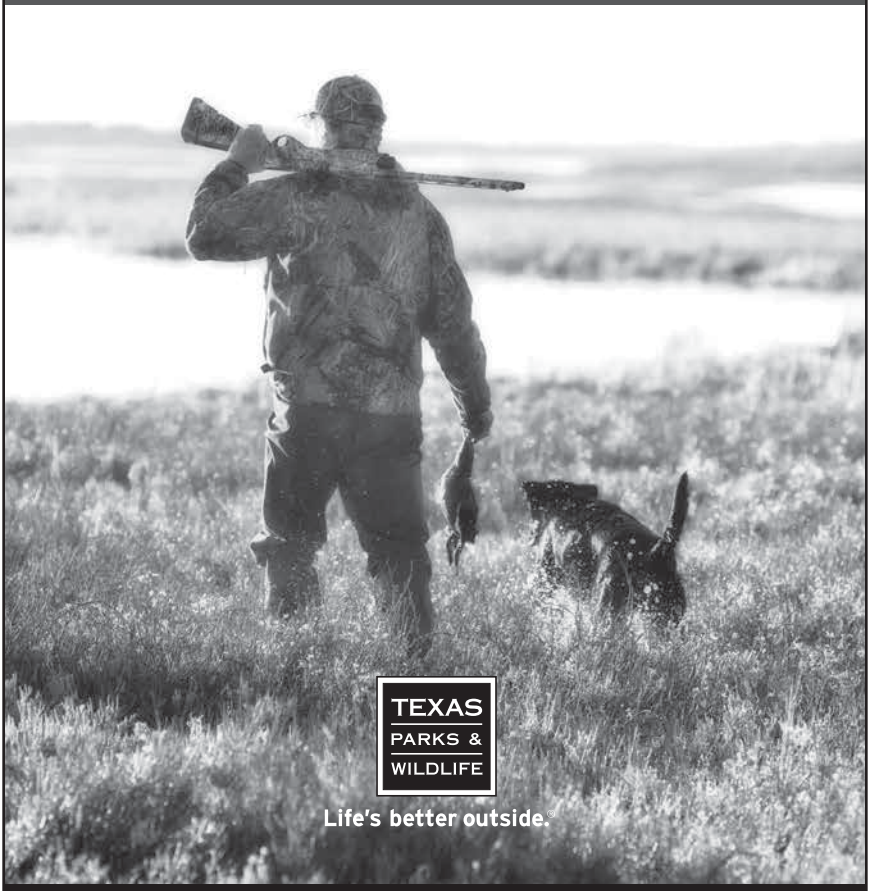
TEXAS WATERFOWL DIGEST

2016 • 2017



TEXAS HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS, GEESE, AND SANDHILL CRANES

TEXAS WATERFOWL DIGEST

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PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

This digest is a summary of rules adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission under authority of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 64, Subchapter C for the taking of migratory game birds. 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 Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), P.O. Box 329, Albuquerque, NM 87103, (505) 248-7889. Consult the 2016-2017 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual for additional information on hunting in Texas. The *Texas Waterfowl Digest* is published annually by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. No part of the contents of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without the permission of TPWD.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Texas is now a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). The IWVC is a multi-state compact that allows member states to share information about wildlife violators and to deny licensure to persons who have failed to comply with conservation law in member states. For example, if a person has had their hunting, fishing or trapping privileges suspended in one member state, the suspension may be recognized by any member state. For more information call (512) 389-4381.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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TEXAS HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS AND GEESE

DEFINITIONS

BAITED AREA: Any area where salt, grain or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered, if that salt, grain or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such areas will remain a baited area for 10 days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain or other feed.

BAITING: The direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

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.

POSSESSION LIMIT: The maximum number of a species of migratory game bird that may be lawfully possessed at one time.

DUSKY DUCK: Mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids.

LIGHT GEESE: Snow (including blue) and Ross's geese.

DARK GEESE: All other geese, including Canada and white-fronted.

LAWFUL ARCHERY AND CROSSBOW EQUIPMENT: Long-bows, recurved bows, compound bows or crossbows.

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 cannot be removed without disassembling the gun, so the gun's total capacity does not exceed three shells.

LIVESTOCK: Cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats and hogs.

MANIPULATION: The alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops, including but not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning and herbicide treatments. Manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

MIGRATORY BIRD PRESERVATION FACILITY: A stationary facility designed and constructed to store or process game animals and game birds.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS: All wild species of ducks, mergansers, geese, brant, coots, rails, gallinules, plovers, Wilson's snipe or jacksnipe, woodcock, mourning

doves, white-winged doves, white-tipped (white-fronted) doves, red-billed pigeons, band-tailed pigeons, shorebirds of all varieties and sandhill cranes.

NATURAL VEGETATION: Any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or propagule. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the planting is considered natural vegetation.

NORMAL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE: A normal agricultural planting, harvesting or post-harvest manipulation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NORMAL SOIL-STABILIZATION PRACTICE: A planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PERSONAL RESIDENCE (PERSONAL ABODE): One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place. The term does not include a temporary or transient place of residence or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent, or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure, or business trip.

RESIDENT: A person who has lived in Texas for more than six months immediately before applying for a license and members of the United States Armed Forces (and their dependents) on active duty anywhere. For information on proof of residency, go to the TPWD website, www.tpwd.texas.gov/publications/annual/general/licenses.

NON-RESIDENT: Any person who is not a resident.

OPEN SEASON: The period of time when it is lawful to take, kill, or pursue, or attempt to take or kill migratory game birds.

SINKBOX: A low floating device concealing a person below the surface of the water.

WATERFOWL: Ducks (including teal), geese, mergansers and coots.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All migratory game bird hunters must have a valid hunting license regardless of age. Non-residents under 17 years of age are designated as residents and may hunt with a Youth Hunting License. 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.

PUBLIC HUNTING

Waterfowl hunters utilizing public water are encouraged to contact a local TPWD Law Enforcement office or reservoir controlling authority for information on rules or permit requirements before hunting. On public hunting lands owned, administered, or leased by the state, a person is required to possess both a valid hunting license and Annual Public Hunting Permit to hunt migratory game birds. Licensed supervised youth under the age of 17 may hunt free of charge on these lands. Check the *TPWD 2016-2017 Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet and Dove Supplement* available at all TPWD offices for more information or www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/.

STAMP AND ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

A person 17 years of age or older must possess a state Migratory Game Bird endorsement receipt to hunt any migratory game bird in this state. Federal law also requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older to have a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called a Duck Stamp; available at select post offices, TPWD offices and all license retail sales locations).

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Harvest Information Program (HIP) is a federally mandated program to improve information about the harvest of all migratory game birds. Anyone who purchases a hunting license or a migratory bird hunting endorsement will be asked a few simple questions about their migratory bird hunting activities. For additional information, you may consult the TPWD *Outdoor Annual*, www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/ or call (512) 389-4505.

FEES

Licenses, permits, federal duck stamp and endorsements (or replacements if they are lost or stolen) are available at TPWD offices, many sporting goods stores, bait shops and other retailers, or by calling 1-800-895-4248 (except replacements).

HUNTING HOURS

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during Light Goose Conservation Order.

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.

WANTON WASTE

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 fit for human consumption. No person may pursue a wounded wildlife resource across a property line without the consent of the landowner of the property where the wildlife resource has fled or entered. Under the tres-

pass provisions of the Penal Code, a person on a property without the permission of the landowner is subject to arrest.

DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit of freshly killed birds while in the field or while returning from the field to one's hunting camp, automobile or temporary lodging facility. For the first day of any season the possession limit is the daily bag limit. A person may possess additional migratory birds after they leave the field, if the additional birds they possess are tagged with a wildlife resource document from the hunter who killed them.

DONATION OR GIFT

A person may give, leave, receive or possess any species of legally taken migratory game birds, or parts of birds, that are protected by a bag or possession limit, if the birds are accompanied by a wildlife resource document (WRD) from the person who killed the birds. For example, a WRD is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services. A WRD is not required of a person who lawfully killed the birds to possess the birds, or if the birds are transferred at the personal residence of the donor or donee. The WRD (which can be a hand-written tag) shall accompany the birds until the birds reach their final destination and must contain the following information:

- name, signature, address and hunting license number of the person who killed the birds;
- the name of the person receiving the birds;
- a description of the birds (number and type of species or parts);
- the date birds were killed; and
- the location where the birds were killed (ranch and county).

LAWFUL HUNTING MEANS & METHODS

Legal shotguns, lawful archery equipment, including crossbows, falconry, dogs, artificial decoys and manual or mouth-operated bird calls. Hunting is permitted in the open or from a blind or other type of concealment or from any floating craft (except a sinkbox) provided that all motion resulting from sail or motor has ceased (sails furled and motor shut off). A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power.

UNLAWFUL HUNTING METHODS

It is unlawful:

- to use any firearm other than a legal shotgun, trap, snare, net, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance, live birds as decoys, recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, sinkbox or by means of baiting or hunting over a baited area.
- 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.
- to use motor-driven land, water or air conveyances or sailboats to concentrate, drive, rally or stir up any migratory game bird.
- to hunt where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are or have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory wildfowl.

BAITING

A hunter MAY hunt migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots and sandhill cranes:

- on or over standing crops, standing flooded

crops and flooded harvested crops;

- at any time over natural vegetation that has been manipulated. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the planting is considered natural vegetation;
- on or over a normal soil stabilization practice;
- on or over lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as a result of a normal agricultural practice,
- over crops or natural vegetation where grain has been inadvertently scattered as a result of entering or leaving a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds;
- using natural vegetation or crops to conceal a blind, provided that if crops are used to conceal a blind, no grain or other feed is exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered in the process.

EXCEPT waterfowl and sandhill cranes may not be hunted where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of:

- manipulation of an agricultural 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 in the first year after planting;
- hunt waterfowl or cranes over crops that have been manipulated, unless the manipulation is a normal agricultural post-harvesting manipulation in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

No person may place or direct the placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing, inducing or allowing any person to take or attempt to take any migratory game bird by the aid of baiting on or over the baited area.

NONTOXIC SHOT

No person, while hunting waterfowl anywhere in the state, may possess shotgun shells containing lead shot or loose lead shot for use in muzzleloaders. Approved shot includes steel, including copper, nickel or zinc-coated steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer (i.e., moly-shot), and any other nontoxic material approved by the Director of the USFWS. www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/nontoxic.htm

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to dressed waterfowl while being transported between the place taken and the personal residence (personal abode) of the hunter, the personal residence of another person receiving the dressed birds or a migratory bird preservation facility. One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to all migratory game birds imported from Mexico.

IMPORTATION LIMIT

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

VIOLATION AND PENALTY

Violation of state migratory game bird regulations also is a violation of federal regulations. A person who violates any state 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 fee for each bird unlawfully taken or possessed; and (3) license suspension or revocation. No person may import into this

state or possess a migratory game bird taken outside this state, unless the person possessing the migratory game bird produces upon demand by a game warden a valid hunting license, stamp, tag, permit or document for the state or country in which the migratory game bird was legally taken. A person possessing a migratory game bird under this section must produce, upon demand by a game warden, a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate. 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 the migratory birds were brought from Mexico is satisfactory.

CLOSED AREAS

Unless otherwise specified, there are no open seasons on state wildlife preserves and sanctuaries, public roads and highways or their rights-of-way. More restrictive federal regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting.

CLOSED SEASONS

It is a violation to hunt a migratory game bird or possess a freshly killed migratory game bird listed in these rules at any time other than as provided in the "open seasons, bag and possession limits" section. If no season is listed for a species, the season is closed.

DUSKY (MOTTLED) DUCK HARVEST OFF-LIMITS FIRST FIVE DAYS

Duck hunters in Texas will have to keep an eye peeled for dusky ducks and fingers off the trigger during the first five days of the season again this year, as concern about the mottled duck populations have forced a delay in harvest. A dusky duck is defined as a mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is holding Texas and Louisiana to a harvest reduction of West Gulf Coast Population of mottled ducks, citing a need for additional conservation based on estimated population declines resulting from major storms in recent years and continued habitat loss.

Due to similarities in appearance, all dusky ducks will be off limits during the first five days of the season with a daily bag limit of one starting Nov. 10 in the South duck zone and Nov. 17 in the North duck zone. In the High Plains Mallard Management Unit, dusky ducks may not be taken until Nov. 7.

Federal Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit (Type 590): **FREE**
This permit is required to hunt sandhill cranes. The permit can be obtained in person ONLY at TPWD Law Enforcement offices (see list in current Outdoor Annual) and TPWD headquarters in Austin, but also is available by phone at (800) 792-1112 (#4820#) or (512) 389-4820, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday or online any time at www.tpwd.texas.gov/licenses/online_sales. For phone and online orders, a transaction receipt will be issued in lieu of a permit. A $5 administrative fee will be charged for online and phone orders. Permittees should keep a record of hunting activities because 20% of sandhill crane hunters are chosen for a federal harvest survey.

LICENSE FEES

(administrative fees my apply for certain methods of purchase)

Combination Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Hunting and Freshwater Fishing **$50**
Hunting and Saltwater Fishing **$55**
Hunting and All Water Fishing **$60**
Youth Hunting License (residents and non-residents under 17 yrs.) **$7**
Senior Resident Hunting License (residents 65 yrs. of age or older) **$7**
Resident Hunting (all other residents) **$25**
Senior Resident Combination Hunting and Freshwater Fishing (65 yrs. of age or older) **$16**
Senior Resident Combination Hunting and Saltwater Fishing (65 yrs. of age or older) **$21**
Senior Resident Combination Hunting and All-Water Fishing (65 yrs. of age or older) **$26**
Disabled Veteran "Super Combo" Hunting and All-Water Fishing Package ..... **Free**
Texas Resident Active Duty Military "Super Combo" Hunting and All-Water Fishing Package ..... **Free**

Texas Resident Active Military Hunting Package ..... **Free**

Resident Super Combo Package (includes a Resident Hunting License, a Resident Fishing License, and five state endorsements (archery, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing with a red drum tag, upland game bird, and migratory game bird) **$68**

Senior Resident Super Combo Package **$32**

Non-resident License Fees:

General Non-resident Hunting **$315**
Non-resident Special Hunting **$132**
Non-resident 5-Day Special Hunting **$48**

Endorsements:

Texas Migratory Game Bird Endorsement **$7**
Texas Upland Game Bird Endorsement **$7**

Permits:

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) **$25**
Annual Public Hunting Permit (17 yrs. and over, see TPWD Public Hunting Booklet) **$48**
Daily Public Hunting Permit (17 yrs. and over) **$20**
Federal Sandhill Crane Hunting Permit ..... **Free**
HIP Certification ..... **Free**

2016-2017 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON DATES

SHOOTING HOURS: ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET

DUCKS

ZONE	REGULAR DUCKS*	YOUTH WATERFOWL**	FALCONRY***
Early Teal (statewide)	Sept. 10 – 25		
High Plains Mallard Management Unit (HPMMU)	Oct. 29 – 30 Nov. 4 – Jan. 29	Oct. 22 – 23	
North	Nov. 12 – 27 Dec. 3 – Jan. 29	Nov. 5 – 6	Jan. 30 – Feb. 12
South	Nov. 5 – 27 Dec. 10 – Jan. 29	Oct. 29 – 30	Jan. 30 – Feb. 12

* *See mottled duck restrictions, pages 8 and 11.*

** ***15 years of age or younger. Regular season bag limits apply for all legal species of geese, ducks, mergansers and coots. Dusky ducks are legal during the youth only season.*** *Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age.*

*** *A person holding a valid Texas falconry permit may take migratory game birds by means of falconry from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during open seasons listed herein and during the falconry seasons.*

GEESE

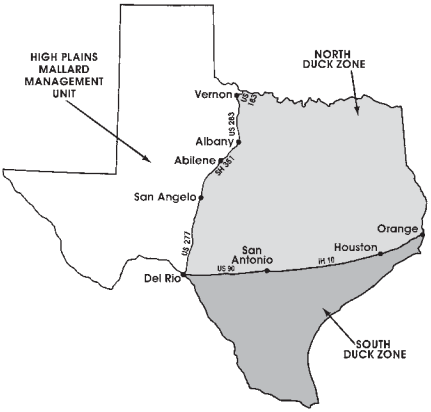
ZONE	SPECIES	DATES
West	Light and Dark Geese Light Geese (Conservation Order)	Nov. 5 – Feb. 5 Feb. 6 – Mar. 19
East	Early Canada Goose Light and Dark Geese Light Geese (Conservation Order)	Sept. 10 – 25 Nov. 5 – Jan. 29 Jan. 30 – Mar. 19

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

During the Light Goose Conservation Order, the taking of light geese will be permitted by regulations established through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Conservation Order. Under the Conservation Order the following rules shall be in effect for the taking of light geese.

1. **The use of electronic calls is legal.**
2. **Unplugged shotguns holding more than 3 shells are legal.**
3. **There will be no daily bag or possession limits.**
4. **Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.**
5. **LIGHT GEESE shall include only Snow (including blue) and Ross's geese.**
6. **A person may give, leave, receive or possess legally taken light geese or their parts, provided the birds are accompanied by a WRD (see pg. 6, Donation or Gift) from the person who killed the birds. The WRD is not required if the possessor lawfully killed the birds; the birds are transferred at the personal residence of the donor or donee; or the possessor also possesses a valid hunting license, required stamps and is HIP certified.**

HUNTING ZONES - DUCKS, MERGANSER AND COOT



HIGH PLAINS MALLARD MANAGEMENT UNIT: West of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Del Rio, north along U.S. Hwy. 277 to Abilene, State Hwy. 351 and State Hwy. 6 to Albany, and U.S. Hwy. 283 to Vernon, east along U.S. Hwy. 183 to the Texas-Oklahoma state line.

SOUTH ZONE: South of a line from the International Bridge and U.S. 277 Spur at Del Rio, east along U.S. 90 to San Antonio, east along IH 10 to the Texas-Louisiana state line.

NORTH ZONE: Remainder of the state.

DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT

EARLY TEAL - 6 In the aggregate

REGULAR DUCK - 6 Includes no more than:

- 5 mallards *(only 2 of which may be hens)*
- 3 wood ducks
- 3 scaup
- 2 redheads
- 2 pintails
- 2 canvasbacks
- 1 dusky duck *(mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids are closed the first five days of the season in each zone)*
- All other species not listed: 6

MERGANSER - 5

In the aggregate, to include no more than 2 hooded mergansers

COOT - 15

POSSESSION LIMIT

Three times the daily bag limit

FALCONRY

Daily bag and possession limits shall not exceed 3 and 9 migratory game birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate

HUNTING ZONES - GEESE

WESTERN ZONE: West of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Laredo, north following IH-35 and 35W to Fort Worth, northwest along U.S. Hwy. 81 and 287 to Bowie, north along U.S. Hwy. 81 to the Texas-Oklahoma state line.

EASTERN ZONE: Remainder of the state.

DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT

WESTERN ZONE

Light Geese
20 in the aggregate

Dark Geese
5, to include no more than 2 White-fronted geese

EASTERN ZONE

Early Canada Goose
5

Regular Light Geese
20 in the aggregate

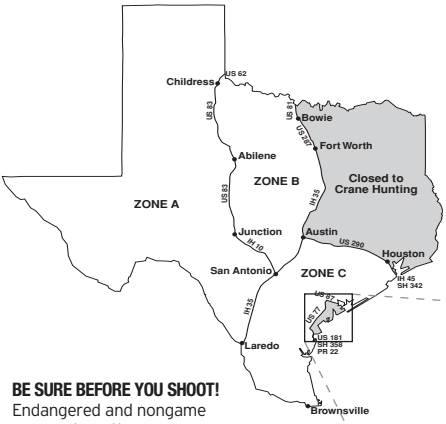
Regular Dark Geese
5, to include no more than 2 White-fronted geese

POSSESSION LIMIT

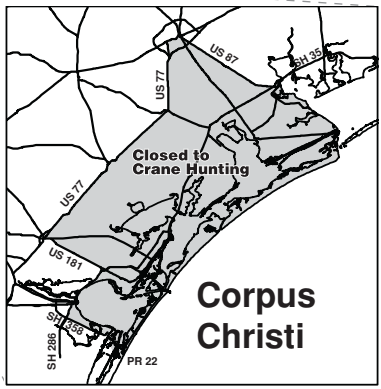
Three times the daily bag limit for dark geese; no possession limit for light geese

SANDHILL CRANES

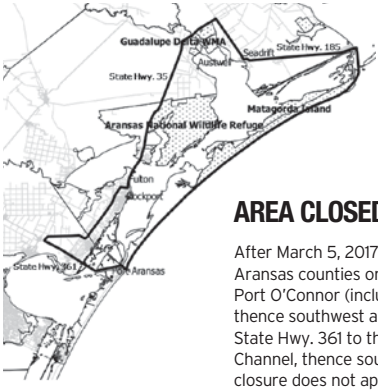
Zone	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
A	Oct. 29 - Jan. 29	3	9
B	Nov. 18 - Jan. 29	3	9
C	Dec. 17 - Jan. 22	2	6



ZONE C CLOSED AREA DESCRIPTION: Everything to the Gulf of Mexico from a line beginning at the Kleberg-Nueces county line and the Gulf of Mexico, west along the county line to Park Road 22, to State Hwy. 358, to State Hwy. 286, north to IH 37, east to U.S. Hwy. 181, north and west to U.S. Hwy. 77 at Sinton, north and east along U.S. Hwy. 77 to U.S. Hwy. 87 at Victoria, east and south along U.S. Hwy. 87 to State Hwy. 35, north and east along State Hwy. 35 to the south end of Lavaca Bay Causeway, south and east along the shore of Lavaca Bay to the Port Lavaca Ship Channel, south and east along the Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.



BE SURE BEFORE YOU SHOOT!
Endangered and nongame cranes share the same habitat as sandhill cranes. Review the descriptions on pages 14-17.



AREA CLOSED TO HUNTING

After March 5, 2017, it is unlawful to take light geese in Refugio, Calhoun and Aransas counties on the seaward side of a line beginning at the Gulf of Mexico at Port O'Connor (including Pelican Island), thence northwest along State Hwy. 185, thence southwest along State Hwy. 35 to Aransas Pass, thence southeast along State Hwy. 361 to the Port Aransas Channel, thence east along the Corpus Christi Channel, thence southeast along the Aransas Channel to the Gulf of Mexico. This closure does not apply to the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

Species	Hunt Type	Dates	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Dove (North Zone)	Regular	Sept. 1 – Nov. 13 Dec. 17 – Jan. 1	15*	45
	Falconry	Nov. 19 – Dec. 5	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Dove (Central)	Regular	Sept. 1 – Nov. 6 Dec. 17 – Jan. 8	15*	45
	Falconry	Nov. 19 – Dec. 5	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Dove (South)	Regular	Sept. 23 – Nov. 13 Dec. 17 – Jan. 23	15*	45
	Falconry	Nov. 19 – Dec. 5	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Special White-winged Dove Area	Special Season	Sept. 3, 4, 10, 11	**(see below)	**(see below)
	Regular	Sept. 23 – Nov. 9 Dec. 17 – Jan. 23	15*	45
	Falconry	Nov. 19 – Dec. 5	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
September Teal Season	Regular	Sept. 10 – 25	6 (in the aggregate)	18 (in the aggregate)
King and Clapper Rails	Regular	Sept. 10 – 25 Nov. 5 – Dec. 28	15 (in the aggregate)	45 (in the aggregate)
	Falconry	Jan. 30 – Feb. 12	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Sora and Virginia Rails	Regular	Sept. 10 – 25 Nov. 5 – Dec. 28	25 (in the aggregate)	75 (in the aggregate)
	Falconry	Jan. 30 – Feb. 12	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Moorhens (Common Gallinules) and Purple Gallinules	Regular	Sept. 10 – 25 Nov. 5 – Dec. 28	15 (in the aggregate)	45 (in the aggregate)
	Falconry	Jan. 30 – Feb. 12	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Woodcock	Regular	Dec. 18 – Jan. 31	3	9
	Falconry	Jan. 30 – Feb. 12	3 (in the aggregate)	9 (in the aggregate)
Wilson's Snipe (Common snipe or jacksnipe)	Regular	Oct. 29 – Feb. 12	8	24

* In all zones, the daily bag limit can include no more than 2 white-tipped (white-fronted doves). The possession limit on white-tipped doves is three times the daily bag limit.

** Bag limits for the Special White-winged Dove Area: 15 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, to include no more than 2 mourning doves and 2 white-tipped (white-fronted doves). Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. Legal shooting hours are noon to sunset.

For information on pattern testing and reduction of wounding loss please go to www.tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_br_w7000_1690_06_11.pdf

BE SURE BEFORE YOU SHOOT!

Many light waterbirds look alike.
Federal and state fines and jail time can apply if you shoot at illegal birds.

(illustrations not to scale)

ENDANGERED

DON'T SHOOT

WHOOPING CRANES (ENDANGERED)

White with black wingtips, red cap and red malar stripe

Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips

Necks long, extended straight forward in flight

Wingspan: 7-1/2 feet

Legs extend beyond tail in flight

Slow wingbeat

Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with sandhill cranes

SANDHILL CRANES

Gray, with dark wingtips; may appear white in some light

Neck long, extended straight forward in flight

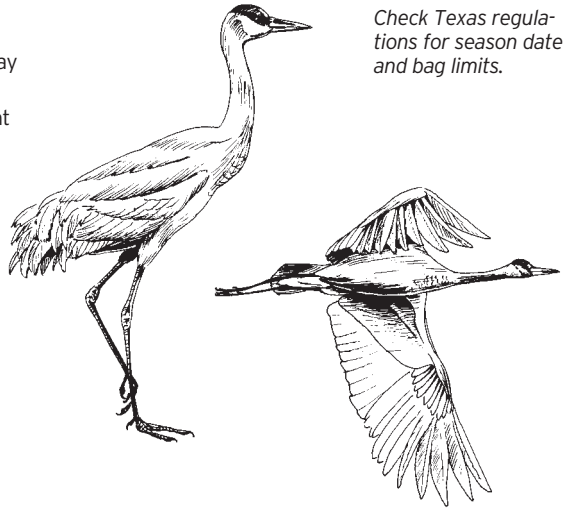
Wingspan: 6-1/2 feet

Legs extend beyond tail in flight

Slow wingbeat

Flocks of 2 to hundreds

Check Texas regulations for season date and bag limits.



LEGAL

WHITE IBIS

White with black only on tips of wings

Necks long; slender bill is curved down

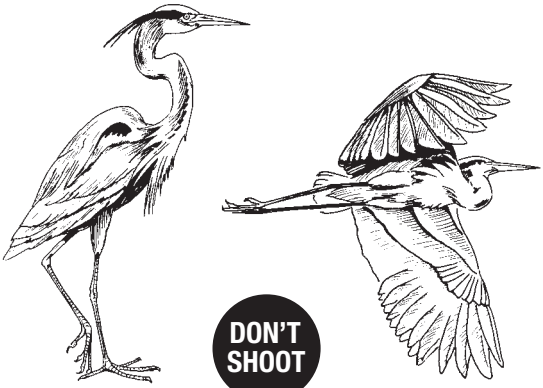
Wingspan: 3 feet

Legs extend slightly beyond tail in flight

Fly by flapping and gliding

Found in groups up to about 30

DON'T SHOOT



DON'T SHOOT

GREAT BLUE HERON

Stands 4 feet tall, dark grayish blue and wingspan of nearly 6 feet

Necks long, typically folded in flight (extends neck near take-off and landing)

Slow wingbeat

Typically found singly or in pairs

WOOD STORKS

White, with black tail and black along entire edge of wings

Neck long, extended straight, bare and dark near head; heavy bill curved down

Wingspan: 5-1/2 feet

Long legs extend beyond tail in flight

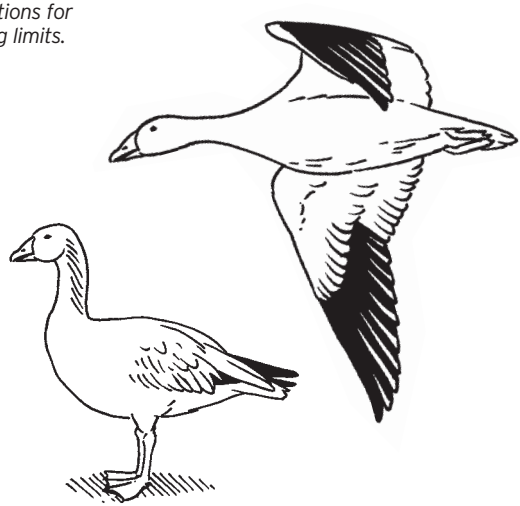
Flaps slowly, glides and soars

May be seen in groups or as single birds

DON'T SHOOT

LEGAL

Check Texas regulations for season date and bag limits.



SNOW GOOSE AND ROSS'S GOOSE

White with black wingtips

Wingspan: 4-1/2 feet

Short legs

Rapid wingbeat

Flocks of 20 to hundreds

Usually noisy

DON'T SHOOT

SWANS

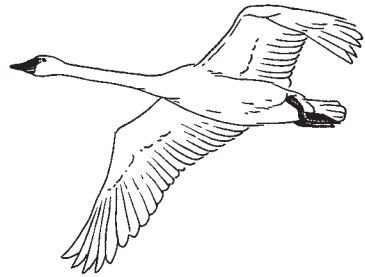
All white

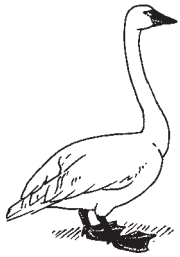
Necks long, extended straight forward in flight

Wingspan more than 6 feet

Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight

Flocks of 2 to 10





AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS

White wings with black edgings extending almost to body

Long neck, folded in flight

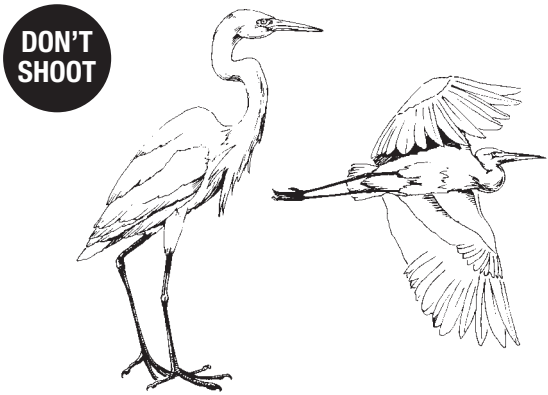
Wingspan: 9 feet

Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight

Long, yellow bill

Often in flocks of 20 or more

Usually circle while soaring



GREAT EGRET

An all-white heron with

4-1/2 foot wingspan and bright yellow beak

Long legs

Neck usually tucked in flight

Slightly smaller than sandhill cranes when standing

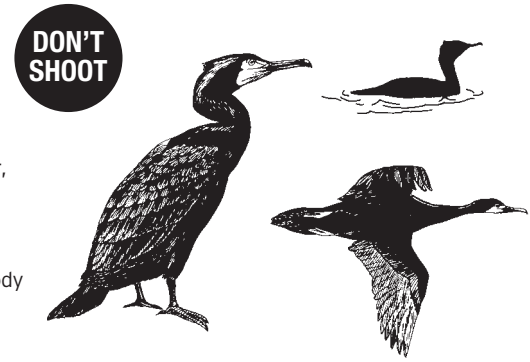
DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT

Goose-sized with slender body, long neck and slender, hooked bill that is usually a tilted up while swimming

Orange throat patch

Dark, nearly totally black body

More rapid wing beat and longer tail than geese



TOM ROSTER'S 2016 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE©

PROVEN NONTOXIC LOADS FOR WATERFOWL, DOVES, AND UPLAND GAME BIRDS [1]

Vel. Range Tested: 1,225 – 1,700 FPS

ACTIVITY	Observed Hunters' Typical Shooting Range During Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY at the Distances Listed in the Second Column	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (Number of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) at Distance (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)
Large Geese at Long Range Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65 50-70	Steel BBB to T HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified
Medium/Small Geese Long Range Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65 50-65	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel 2 to BB HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Light Modified, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified
Large Ducks at Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65 45-65	Steel 2 to 1 HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	Improved Modified, Full Improved Modified, Full
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	3/4-1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	I.C. (20-35 yds), Mod. (35-45 yds) I.C. (20-35 yds), Mod. (35-45 yds)
Medium Ducks Over Decoys Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 3 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	115-120 115-120	I.C. (20-35 yds), Mod. (35-45 yds) I.C. (20-35 yds), Mod. (35-45 yds)

Small Ducks Over Decoys Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 4 HEVI-Shot 6	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	135-145 135-145	Mod. (20-35 yds), Full (35-45 yds) Mod. (20-35 yds), Full (35-45 yds)
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50 20-50	Steel 3 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	2-3 2-3	90-95 90-95	I.C. (20-30 yds), Mod. (30-50 yds) I.C. (20-30 yds), Mod. (30-50 yds)
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4; HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full
Mourning Doves	20-45 20-45	Steel 8 to 7 HEVI-Shot 7-1/2	5/8-3/4 3/4	1-2 1-2	200-210 200-210	IC-8's/LM-7's (20-30 Yds); Mod>30 Yd I.C. (20-30 Yds); Light Mod (30-45 Yd)
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 8 to 7	5/8-3/4	1-2	200-210	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified
Swatter Load for Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the lethality data bases for certain of the 16 U.S. steel versus lead waterfowl and dove shooting tests published between 1968 and 2014 and one steel-only pheasant shooting test (1999) plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them and the CONSEP Org.

NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and are harder than traditional steel pellets.

NOTE: Steel #BBB (.190") and HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") and HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; and steel #2 and HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants; and steel 7's (.100") the best all-around performance for taking doves.

1 These findings are derived from testing 2-3/4" 28 gauge; 3" 20 gauge; 2-3/4", 3" and 3-1/2" 12 gauge; and 3-1/2" 10 gauge steel loads; plus 2-3/4" 28 gauge; 2-3/4" and 3" 20 gauge; and 2-3/4" and 3" 12 gauge HEVI-Shot loads.

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For answers to questions on this table, contact:
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