

Comments on the proposal can be sent to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov)

## **PROPOSED 2019 VERMONT MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASONS**

### **BACKGROUND**

Figure 1 (Harvest Data Comparison)

### **SEASON OPTIONS FOR 2019 (Framework)**

Figure 2 (Duck season options)

Figure 3 (Geese, brant, mergansers, coots season options)

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019 MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD SEASONS**

Figure 4 (September Resident Canada Goose Season)

Figure 5 (Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days)

Figure 6 (Vermont Waterfowl Hunting Zones)

Figures 7 (Lake Champlain Zone Recommendations)

Figures 8 (Vermont Interior Zone Recommendations)

Figures 9 (Woodcock and Snipe Seasons Recommendations)

FALCONRY SEASON RECOMMENDATION - Figure 10

### **VERMONT WATERFOWL SEASONS HISTORY**

### **MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY**

### **PUBLIC WATERFOWL MEETINGS:**

**March 12, 2019 - 6:30 PM – Whitehall, NY**

**March 14, 2019 – 6:30 PM – Winooski, VT**

Figure 1.

Vermont Waterfowl Hunting and Harvest Data Comparisons  
(Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones Combined)

	Federal Duck Stamp Sales	Vermont Duck Stamp Sales	Vermont HIP	No. of Active Adult Duck Hunters	Average Seasonal Duck Bagged Per Hunter	Total Season Estimated Duck Harvest	Total Season Estimated Canada Goose Harvest	Total Season Estimated Snow Goose Harvest
1994	4,821	7,998		3,942	5.23	22,600	1,900*	2,000
1995	4,695	6,715		3,955	6.97	31,700	0*	1,800
1996	4,812	7,023		3,807	9.35	40,000	0*	3,600
1997	3,791	6,644		2,981	7.85	21,600	0*	1,300
1998	4,345	6,725		3,132	5.78	24,000	2,700	3,300
1999	4,542	6,320		1,600	11.9	25,000	4,100	1,700
2000	4,741	5,418		1,700	10.4	17,700	3,600	4,200
2001	4,824	5,685		1,700	10.4	17,600	4,300	2,200
2002	5,201	5,722		2,600	9.6	26,800	7,100	1,300
2003	5,242	6,012		1,300	12.6	16,300	3,600	3,400
2004	4,723	6,242		2,600	9.3	24,300	7,100	1,700
2005	4,956	5,682		2,400	10.6	25,400	9,300	400
2006	3,391	5,581		2,000	9.9	19,600	7,800	100
2007	3,193	6,137		2,300	9.2	16,700	6,300	500
2008	3,391	5,746	↑\$5-\$7.50	2,900	11.9	34,800	12,300	2,100
2009	not available	6,051		2,400	10.7	25,500	11,500	90
2010	not available	6,065 Last Stamp	5,404**	2,700	8.5	22,900	9,600	0
2011	not available	4,872 First Tag	4,949**	2,600	9.0	23,000	8,300	134
2012	not available	5,882	6,283**	2,100	10.0	20,500	8,600	34
2013	not available	6,436	8,719**	4,000	8.0	31,900	9,600	0
2014	not available	6,635	9,913**	2,600	6.8	17,800	12,300	46
2015	not available	6,244	11,122**	2,800	5.8	14,700	6,733	30
2016	not available	6,016	18,598**	3,400	5.2	16,000	8,800	0
2017	not available	5,954	7,006**	2,500	7.9	19,900	15,900	0
2018	not available	5,725	10,542**	To date not available	To date not available	To date not available	To date not available	To date not available

\* Harvest restrictions in effect

\*\* Includes youth hunters and woodcock/snipe hunters

**Figure 2.**

**2019 DUCK SEASON OPTIONS\***

<b><u>LENGTH</u></b>	<b><u>OUTSIDE DATES</u></b>	<b><u>DAILY BAG</u></b>	<b><u>POSSESSION LIMIT**</u></b>
60 Days	Sept. 24 – Jan. 31	6	18

**SPECIES RESTRICTIONS - Daily Bag**

MALLARD	2 (only 1 hen)
WOOD DUCK	3
BLACK DUCK	2
PINTAIL	1
REDHEAD	2
SCAUP	2
SCOTER	4
EIDERS	4
LONG-TAILED DUCK	4
CANVASBACK	2
HARLEQUIN	CLOSED
MOTTLED DUCK	1
FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK	1
HOODED MERGANSER	2

\* Apply to Lake Champlain, Interior Vermont, and Connecticut River Zones.

\*\* Possession limit is equal to three times the daily bag limit for these species.

SHOOTING HOURS - ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET (all days – all species)

**Figure 3.**

**2019 OPTIONS FOR GEESE, BRANT, MERGANSERS, COOTS**

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>SEASON LENGTH</u>	<u>OUTSIDE DATES</u>	<u>DAILY POSSESSION BAG LIMIT**</u>	
Canada Geese				
Resident	25 days	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25	15	45
Regular	30 days	Oct. 10 – Feb. 5	2	6
Snow & Blue Geese	107 days	Oct. 1 – Mar. 10	25	NONE
Brant	30 days	Sept. 21 – Jan. 31	2	6
Mergansers*	60 days	Sept. 24 – Jan. 31	5	15
(Hooded Mergansers)			(2)	(6)
Coots**	60 days	Sept. 24 – Jan. 31	15	45

\* Season length for mergansers equals season option chosen for ducks. Mergansers may be included as part of the daily duck bag, in which case the limit would be 6 mergansers/day. Of total merganser bag, only 2 daily and 6 in possession may be Hooded Mergansers.

\*\* Season length for coots equals season option chosen for ducks.

SHOOTING HOURS - ½ HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET (all days – all species)

Comments on the proposal can be sent to [ANR.FWPpubliccomment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPpubliccomment@vermont.gov)

**Figure 4.**

**2019 SEPTEMBER RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE SEASON RECOMMENDATION**

**Includes Lake Champlain, Vermont Interior, and Connecticut River Zones**

**Season Dates:** September 1 – 25, 2019 (25 days)

**Bag Limits:** Lake Champlain Zone: 8 Canada geese/day  
Interior Vermont Zone: 8 Canada geese/day  
Connecticut River Zone: 5 Canada geese/day

**License Required:** Vermont Hunting License  
Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp  
Vermont Migratory Waterfowl Stamp  
H.I.P. (Harvest Information Program) Registration

**Figure 5.**

**VERMONT YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS – SEPTEMBER 28 & 29, 2019  
RECOMMENDATION**

**Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones**

On Saturday and Sunday, September 28 & 29, 2019, hunters 17 years of age or younger on that date may hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots within all Vermont zones subject to the provisions below:

- (1) Each youth hunter must be properly licensed to hunt in Vermont and must be accompanied by an adult, 18 years of age or older, who is also properly licensed to hunt in Vermont.
- (2) Adults may not hunt waterfowl or carry a firearm while accompanying youth engaged in hunting waterfowl.
- (3) Neither youth 15 years of age and younger nor accompanying adults are required to be in possession of state or federal duck stamps.
- (4) Youth ages 16 and 17 are required to be in possession of a state and federal duck stamp.
- (5) Only ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots may be taken by youth hunters in accordance with prescribed daily bag limits, species restrictions, and other waterfowl hunting regulations in effect in 2019 as contained herein. **The Canada goose limit will be the same as the regular Canada Goose Season (2 birds/day)**
- (6) Shooting hours on September 28 shall be between the hours of 6:15 AM and 6:36 PM.  
Shooting hours on September 29 shall be between the hours of 6:16 AM and 6:34 PM.

Figure 6.

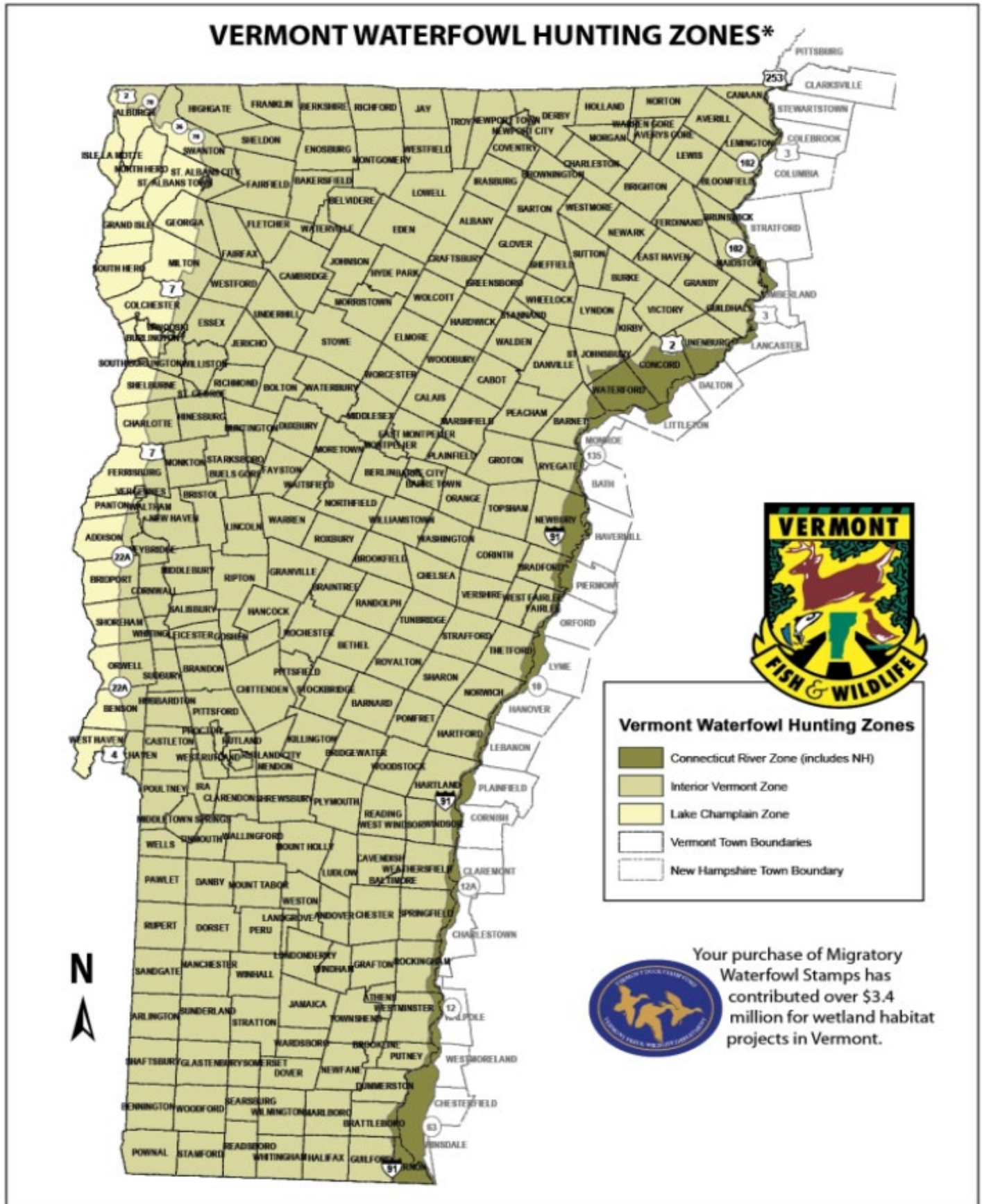


Figure 7.

**2019-2020 WATERFOWL SEASON RECOMMENDATION**

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN ZONE**

	<u>SEASON TYPE</u>	<u>SEASON LENGTH</u>	<u>INCLUSIVE DATES</u>	<u>DAILY LIMIT</u>	<u>POSSESSION LIMIT</u>
DUCKS *	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Nov. 1</u> <u>&amp; Nov 23 - Dec. 29</u>	6	18
MERGANSERS *	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Nov. 1</u> <u>&amp; Nov 23 - Dec. 29</u>	5	15
COOTS	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Nov. 1</u> <u>&amp; Nov 23 - Dec. 29</u>	15	45
GEESE					
Canada Geese	Straight	25 Days	<u>Sept. 1 - Sept. 25</u>	8	24
	Straight	30 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Nov. 8</u>	2	6
Snow Geese **	Split	107 Days	<u>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019</u> <u>Feb. 25 - Mar. 10, 2020</u>	25	NONE
	Straight (CO)		<u>Mar. 11 - Apr. 24, 2020</u>	15	NONE
Brant	Straight	30 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Nov. 8</u>	2	6

SHOOTING HOURS - All Waterfowl - All Days - ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

CO: Conservation Order

\* Federal species restrictions apply.

\*\* Includes blue geese also.



**Figure 8.**

**2019 WATERFOWL SEASON RECOMMENDATION**

**VERMONT INTERIOR ZONE**

	<u>SEASON TYPE</u>	<u>SEASON LENGTH</u>	<u>INCLUSIVE DATES</u>	<u>DAILY LIMIT</u>	<u>POSSESSION LIMIT</u>
DUCKS *	Straight	60 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Dec. 8</u>	6	18
MERGANSERS *	Straight	60 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Dec. 8</u>	5	15
COOTS	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 10 - Dec. 8</u>	15	45
GEESE					
Canada Geese	Straight	25 Days	<u>Sept. 1 - Sept. 25</u>	8	24
	Straight	30 Days	<u>Oct. 10 – Nov. 8</u>	2	6
Snow Geese **	Straight	107 Days	<u>Oct. 1 - Dec.31, 2019</u> <u>Feb. 25 – Mar. 10, 2020</u>	25	NONE
	Straight(CO)		<u>Mar. 11 – Apr. 24, 2020</u>	15	NONE
Brant	Straight	30 Days	<u>Oct. 10 – Nov. 8</u>	2	6

SHOOTING HOURS - All Waterfowl - All Days - ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

CO: Conservation Order

\* Federal species restrictions apply.

\*\* Includes blue geese also.

**Figure 9.**

**VERMONT**

**2019 WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS RECOMMENDATION**

	<b>SEASON DATES</b>	<b>BAG LIMITS</b>	<b>POSSESSION LIMIT</b>
<b>Woodcock</b>	<b>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Snipe</b>	<b>Oct. 1 – Nov. 14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24</b>

**Figure 10.**

**FALCONRY REGULATION**

A person possessing a valid falconry permit may take migratory game birds only during open seasons and within designated shooting times as prescribed herein. Daily bag limit shall be a maximum of three legal migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate, not to exceed restrictive daily bag limits for certain species as listed herein. Possession limit shall be equal to three times the daily limit.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR 2019 FALCONRY (HAWKING)**  
**SEASON AND BAG LIMITS**

- Legal species - all migratory game bird species which have a current open season in Vermont (woodcock, snipe, ducks, geese, brant, mergansers, and coots).
- Season dates - to coincide with established open seasons for each migratory game bird species.
- Hours - to coincide with established legal hours for the taking of migratory game bird species.
- Bag limit - daily bag limit of three (3) legal migratory game birds, singly or in an aggregate of species, but not to exceed established restrictions which currently exist for certain waterfowl species; possession limit is equal to three times the daily limit.

## Vermont Waterfowl Seasons

YEAR	SEASON TYPE	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	GENERAL BAG LIMIT
2008	Zoned**	60	Oct. 8- Oct. 12/ Oct. 25 - Dec. 18 (LCZ)	6-12
			Oct. 8- Dec. 6 (IVZ)	6-12
			Oct. 2- Nov. 2/ Nov. 23 - Dec. 20 (CRZ)****	6-12
2009	Zoned**	60	Oct. 10- Oct. 13/ Oct. 24 - Dec. 18 (LCZ)	6-12
			Oct. 10- Dec. 8 (IVZ)	6-12
			Oct. 6- Nov. 8/ Nov. 25 - Dec. 20 (CRZ)****	6-12
2010	Zoned**	60	Oct. 6-Oct. 10/Oct. 23 - Dec. 16 (LCZ)	6-12
			Oct. 6-Dec. 4 (IVZ)	6-12
			Oct. 5-Nov. 7/ Nov. 24 – Dec. 19 (CRZ)	6-12
2011	Zoned**	60	Oct. 12-Oct. 16/Oct. 29 - Dec. 22 (LCZ)	6-12
			Oct. 12-Dec. 10 (IVZ)	6-12
			Oct. 4-Nov. 6/Nov. 23- Dec. 18 (CRZ)****	6-12
2012	Zoned**	60	Oct. 13-Oct. 17/Oct. 27 - Dec. 20 (LCZ)	6-12
			Oct. 13-Dec. 11 (IVZ)	6-12
			Oct. 2-Nov. 4/Nov. 21- Dec. 16 (CRZ)****	6-12
2013	Zoned**	60	Oct. 9-Oct. 13/Oct. 26 - Dec. 19 (LCZ)	6-18
			Oct. 9-Dec. 7 (IVZ)	6-18
			Oct. 2-Nov. 3/Nov. 19- Dec. 15 (CRZ)****	6-18
2014	Zoned**	60	Oct. 8-Oct. 12/Oct. 25- Dec. 18 (LCZ)	6-18
			Oct. 8-Dec. 6 (IVZ)	6-18
			Oct. 2-Nov. 2/Nov. 16- Dec. 13 (CRZ)****	6-18
2015	Zoned**	60	Oct. 10-Oct. 14/Oct. 24- Dec. 17 (LCZ)	6-18
			Oct. 10-Dec. 8 (IVZ)	6-18
			Oct. 6-Nov. 5/Nov. 15- Dec. 13 (CRZ)****	6-18
2016	Zoned**	60	Oct. 12-Oct. 16/Oct. 29- Dec. 22 (LCZ)	6-18
			Oct. 12-Dec. 10 (IVZ)	6-18
			Oct. 4-Nov. 6/Nov. 22- Dec. 27 (CRZ)****	6-18
2017	Zoned**	60	Oct. 11-Oct. 15/Nov. 7 - Dec. 31 (LCZ)	6-18
			Oct. 11-Dec. 9 (IVZ)	6-18
			Oct. 3-Nov. 5/Nov. 22- Dec. 17 (CRZ)****	6-18
2018	Zoned**	60	Oct. 13-Oct. 21/Nov. 10 - Dec. 30 (LCZ)	6-18
			Oct. 13-Dec. 11 (IVZ)	6-18
			Oct. 2-Nov. 4/Nov. 21- Dec. 16 (CRZ)****	6-18

\*\* Lake Champlain Zone – Split Season

Interior Vermont Zone – Straight Season

\*\*\*\* Connecticut River Zone set by New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission, same as NH Inland Zone

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 2019-2020 VERMONT MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (regulations in effect September 1, 2019 through April 24, 2020)

Species	<u>Lake Champlain Zone</u>	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
<b>Ducks, Coots and Mergansers</b>	Oct. 10 – Nov. 1 Nov. 23 – Dec. 29	Oct. 10 – Dec. 8	Oct. ? – Nov. ? Nov. ? – Dec. ?
<b>Canada Geese</b>	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 10 – Nov. 8	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 10 – Nov. 8	Sept. ? – Sept. ? Oct. ?2 – Nov. ? Nov. ? – Dec. ?
<b>Snow Geese (includes blue geese)</b>	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019 Feb. 25 - Mar. 10, 2020 Mar.11 – Apr 24, 2020	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019 Feb. 25 - Mar. 10, 2020 Mar.11 – Apr 24, 2020	Oct. ? – Dec. ?
<b>Brant</b>	Oct. 10 – Nov. 8	Oct. 10 – Nov. 8	Oct. ? – Oct. ?
<b>Woodcock</b>	Statewide	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	
<b>Common Snipe</b>	Statewide	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend – September 28 & 29

### BAG LIMITS

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take (or possess in the field) during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow geese.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Possession Limit</u>
Ducks *	6	18
Mergansers **	5	15
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese		
September season		
Lake Champlain Zone	8	24
Interior Vermont Zone	8	24
Connecticut River Zone	5	15
Oct. - Dec. season		
Lake Champlain Zone	2	6
Interior Vermont Zone	2	6
Connecticut River Zone	2	6
Snow Geese	25	No limit
Mar. 11 – Apr. 24, 2020	15	No limit
Brant	2	6
Woodcock	3	9
Common Snipe	8	24

\* The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no harlequin, and no more than 2 mallards (1 of which may be hens), 2 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed duck.

\*\* The daily limit of 5 mergansers is in addition to the regular duck bag, and together may include no more than

*Comments on the proposal can be sent to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov)*

2 hooded mergansers.