

VERMONT
PUBLIC WATERFOWL MEETING
MARCH 2021

Summary of the Department's Recommendations

BACKGROUND INFO

[Table 1](#) (Harvest Data Comparison) – Provides background information on past migratory game bird hunting seasons.

SEASON OPTIONS FOR 2021 (Framework)

[Table 2](#) (Duck season options)

[Table 3](#) (Geese, brant, mergansers, coots, snipe, woodcock season options)

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021 MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD SEASONS

[Table 4](#) (September Resident Canada Goose Season)

[Figure 1](#) (Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days)

[Figure 2](#) (Vermont Waterfowl Hunting Zones)

[Table 5](#) (Lake Champlain Zone Recommendations)

[Table 6](#) (Vermont Interior Zone Recommendations)

[Table 7](#) (Woodcock and Snipe Seasons Recommendations)

[Table 8](#) (Vermont Waterfowl Seasons History)

[Table 9](#) (Migratory Game Bird Seasons Recommendation Summary)

[Figure 3](#) (Falconry Season Recommendations)

Table 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
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	10,541**	2,100	7.8	16,200	7,400	0
2019	not available	5,620	10,359**	3,000	6.1	18,100	5,600	0
2020	not available	6,089	10,123**	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

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Table 2.

2021 DUCK SEASON OPTIONS*

<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>OUTSIDE DATES</u>	<u>DAILY BAG</u>	<u>POSSESSION LIMIT**</u>
60 Days	Sept. 25 – 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/Day for 20-days 1/Day for 40-days
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)

Table 3.

2021 OPTIONS FOR GEESE, BRANT, MERGANSERS, COOTS, SNIPE, WOODCOCK

<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	1	3
Snow & Blue Geese	107 days	Oct. 1 – Mar. 10	25	NONE
Brant	50 days	Sept. 25 – Jan. 31	2	6
Mergansers*	60 days	Sept. 25 – Jan. 31	5	15
(Hooded Mergansers)			(2)	(6)
Coots**	60 days	Sept. 25 – Jan. 31	15	45
Snipe	107 days	Sept. 13 – Jan. 31	8	24
Woodcock	45 days	Sept. 13 – Jan. 31	3	9

* 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)

Table 4.

2021 SEPTEMBER RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE SEASON RECOMMENDATION

Includes Lake Champlain, Vermont Interior, and Connecticut River Zones

Season Dates: September 1 – 25, 2021 (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 1.

**VERMONT YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS – SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2021
RECOMMENDATION**

Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones

On Saturday and Sunday, September 25 & 26, 2021, hunters 17 years of age or younger on that date may hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, and coots within the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont zones, within the Connecticut River zone hunters must be 15 years of age or younger, 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 2021 as contained herein. **The Canada goose limit will be the same as the regular Canada Goose Season (1 birds/day)**
- (6) Shooting hours on September 25 shall be between the hours of 6:11 AM and 6:42 PM.
Shooting hours on September 26 shall be between the hours of 6:12 AM and 6:40 PM.

Figure 2.

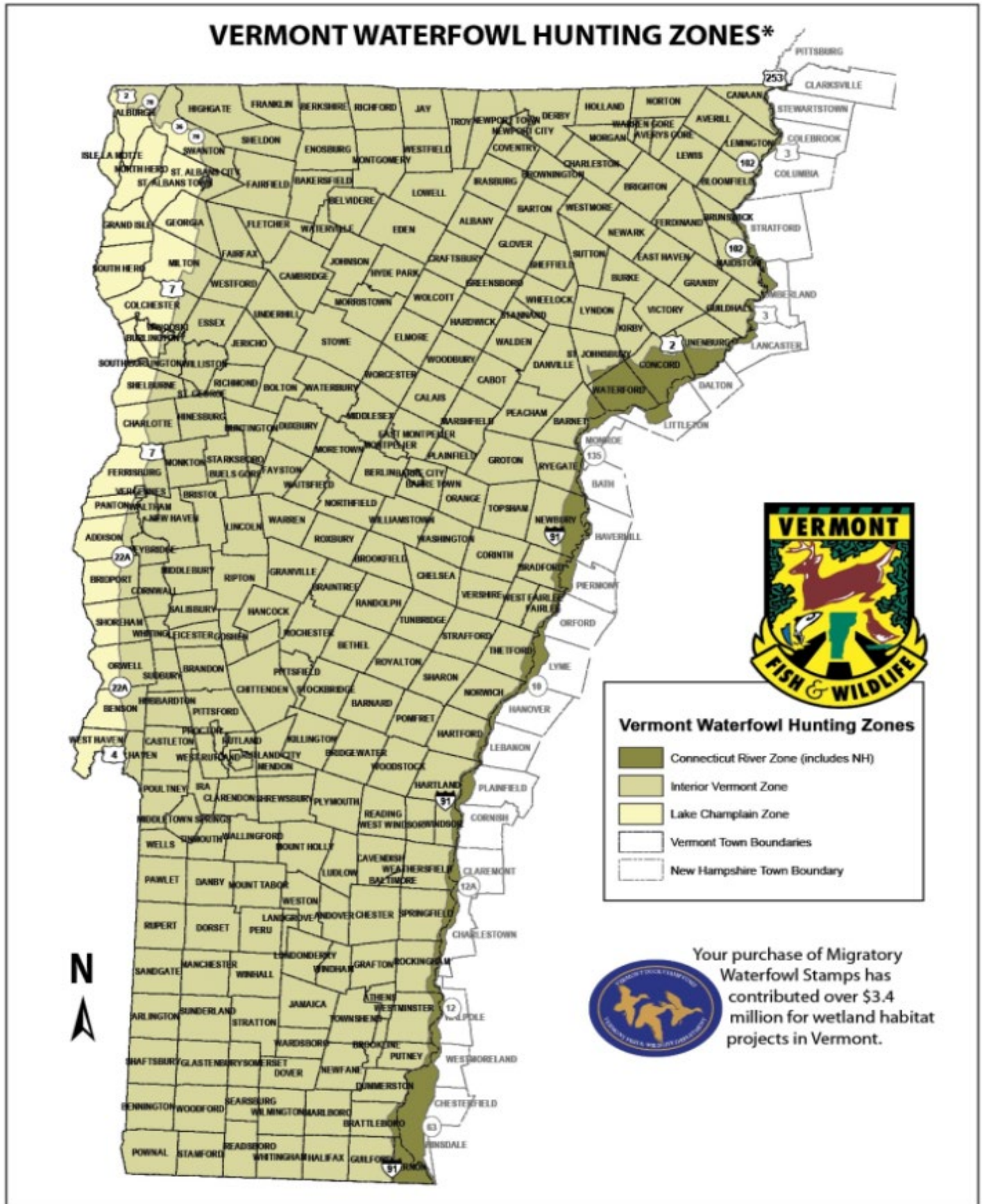


Table 5.

2021-2022 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. 13 – Oct. 17</u> <u>& Oct. 30 - Dec. 23</u>	6	18
SCAUP*	Split	20 Days	<u>Oct.13–Oct. 17/Oct.30–Nov.13</u>	2	6
	Hybrid	40 Days	<u>Nov. 14 – Dec. 23</u>	1	3
MERGANSERS *	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 13 - Oct. 17</u> <u>& Oct. 30 - Dec. 23</u>	5	15
COOTS	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 13 - Oct. 17</u> <u>& Oct. 30 - Dec. 23</u>	15	45
GEESE					
Canada Geese	Straight	25 Days	<u>Sept. 1 - Sept. 25</u>	8	24
	Straight	30 Days	<u>Oct. 13 – Nov. 11</u>	1	3
Snow Geese **	Split	107 Days	<u>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021</u> <u>Feb. 24 – Mar. 10, 2022</u>	25	NONE
	Straight(CO)		<u>Mar. 11 – Apr. 23, 2022</u>	15	NONE
Brant	Straight	50 Days	<u>Oct. 13 – Dec. 1</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.

Table 6.

2021-2022 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. 13 - Dec. 11</u>	6	18
SCAUP*	Straight	20 Days	Oct. 13 – Nov. 1	2	6
		40 Days	Nov. 2 – Dec. 11	1	3
MERGANSERS *	Straight	60 Days	<u>Oct. 13 - Dec. 11</u>	5	15
COOTS	Split	60 Days	<u>Oct. 13 - Dec. 11</u>	15	45
GEESE					
Canada Geese	Straight	25 Days	<u>Sept. 1 - Sept. 25</u>	8	24
	Straight	30 Days	<u>Oct. 13 – Nov. 11</u>	1	3
Snow Geese **	Straight	107 Days	<u>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021</u>	25	NONE
			<u>Feb. 24 – Mar. 10, 2022</u>		
	Straight(CO)		<u>Mar. 11 – Apr. 23, 2022</u>	15	NONE
Brant	Straight	50 Days	<u>Oct. 13 – Dec. 1</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.

Table 7.

VERMONT

2021 WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS RECOMMENDATION

	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMITS	POSSESSION LIMIT
Woodcock	Sept. 25 – Nov. 8	3	9
Snipe	Sept. 25 – Nov. 8	8	24

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Figure 3.

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 2021 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.

Table 8.

Vermont Waterfowl Seasons

YEAR	SEASON TYPE	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	GENERAL BAG LIMIT
2009	Zoned**	60	Oct. 10- Oct. 13/ Oct. 24 - Dec. 18 (LCZ) Oct. 10- Dec. 8 (IVZ) Oct. 6- Nov. 8/ Nov. 25 - Dec. 20 (CRZ)****	6-12 6-12 6-12
2010	Zoned**	60	Oct. 6-Oct. 10/Oct. 23 - Dec. 16 (LCZ) Oct. 6-Dec. 4 (IVZ) Oct. 5-Nov. 7/ Nov. 24 - Dec. 19 (CRZ)	6-12 6-12 6-12
2011	Zoned**	60	Oct. 12-Oct. 16/Oct. 29 - Dec. 22 (LCZ) Oct. 12-Dec 10 (IVZ) Oct. 4-Nov. 6/Nov. 23- Dec. 18 (CRZ)****	6-12 6-12 6-12
2012	Zoned**	60	Oct. 13-Oct. 17/Oct. 27 - Dec. 20 (LCZ) Oct. 13-Dec 11 (IVZ) Oct. 2-Nov. 4/Nov. 21- Dec. 16 (CRZ)****	6-12 6-12 6-12
2013	Zoned**	60	Oct. 9-Oct. 13/Oct. 26 - Dec. 19 (LCZ) Oct. 9-Dec 7 (IVZ) Oct. 2-Nov. 3/Nov. 19- Dec. 15 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2014	Zoned**	60	Oct. 8-Oct. 12/Oct. 25- Dec. 18 (LCZ) Oct. 8-Dec. 6 (IVZ) Oct. 2-Nov. 2/Nov. 16- Dec. 13 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2015	Zoned**	60	Oct. 10-Oct. 14/Oct. 24- Dec. 17 (LCZ) Oct. 10-Dec. 8 (IVZ) Oct. 6-Nov. 5/Nov. 15- Dec. 13 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2016	Zoned**	60	Oct. 12-Oct. 16/Oct. 29- Dec. 22 (LCZ) Oct. 12-Dec. 10 (IVZ) Oct. 4-Nov. 6/Nov. 22- Dec. 27 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2017	Zoned**	60	Oct. 11-Oct. 15/Nov. 7 - Dec. 31 (LCZ) Oct. 11-Dec. 9 (IVZ) Oct. 3-Nov. 5/Nov. 22- Dec. 17 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2018	Zoned**	60	Oct. 13-Oct. 21/Nov. 10 - Dec. 30 (LCZ) Oct. 13-Dec. 11 (IVZ) Oct. 2-Nov. 4/Nov. 21- Dec. 16 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2019	Zoned**	60	Oct. 10-Nov. 1/Nov. 23 - Dec. 29 (LCZ) Oct. 10-Dec. 8 (IVZ) Oct. 2-Nov. 3/Nov. 20- Dec. 16 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 6-18
2020	Zoned**	60	Oct. 10-Nov. 1/Nov. 21 - Dec. 27 (LCZ) Oct. 10-Dec. 8 (IVZ) Oct. 6-Nov. 8/Nov. 17- Dec. 12 (CRZ)****	6-18 6-18 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

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Table 9.

RECOMMENDATIONS**2021-2022 VERMONT MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS
(regulations in effect September 1, 2021 through April 23, 2022)**

Species	Lake Champlain Zone	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
Ducks, Coots and Mergansers	Oct. 13 – Oct. 17 Oct. 30 – Dec. 23	Oct. 13 – Dec. 11	Oct. ? – Nov. ? Nov. ? – Dec. ?
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 13 – Nov. 11	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 13 – Nov. 11	Sept. ? – Sept. ? Oct. ? – Nov. ? Nov. ? – Dec. ?
Snow Geese (includes blue geese)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021 Feb. 24 - Mar. 10, 2022 Mar.11 – Apr 23, 2022	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021 Feb. 24 - Mar. 10, 2022 Mar.11 – Apr 23, 2022	Oct. ? – Dec. ?
Brant	Oct. 13 – Dec. 1	Oct. 13 – Dec. 1	Oct. ? – Oct. ?
Woodcock	Statewide	Sept. 25 – Nov. 8	
Common Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 25 – Nov. 8	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend – September 25 & 26

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	1	3
Interior Vermont Zone	1	3
Connecticut River Zone	2	6
Snow Geese	25	No limit
Mar. 11 – Apr. 23, 2022	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 or 1 scaup depending on dates, 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 2 hooded mergansers.

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