

*Charlote*  
*8-1-75*

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS  
Department of Natural Resources

Chapter 20-1  
Series IX  
(1974)

FILED IN THE OFFICE  
EDGAR F. WEISKAL III  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
THIS DATE 8/26/74

Subject: 1974-75 Hunting Seasons for Waterfowl and Other  
Migratory Game Birds

By virtue of the authority granted to the director of the Department of Natural Resources by Article 1, Chapter 20 of the Code of West Virginia, the following hunting seasons and regulations for waterfowl and other migratory game birds are hereby promulgated and shall become effective at 12:00 noon on September 1, 1974, and shall expire at sunset on January 18, 1975, unless otherwise amended or new regulations are issued by the director. All seasons, unless otherwise noted are statewide and subject to change. The opening and closing dates shall be inclusive, except as noted under exceptions. All time periods shall be prevailing time except as otherwise noted.

Section 1 - Opening and Closing Dates

- 1.01. Mourning doves - September 2 through November 10, 1974.
- 1.02. Sora and Virginia rails -- October 12 - December 20, 1974.
- 1.03. Woodcock - October 12 - December 15, 1974.
- 1.04. Common snipe - October 12 - December 15, 1974.

1.05. Ducks - Split season - October 2 - October 19;  
December 18 - January 18, 1975.

1.06. Mergansers - Split season - October 2 - October 19;  
December 18 - January 18, 1975.

1.07. Coots - Split season - October 2 - October 19;  
December 18 - January 18, 1975.

1.08. Gallinules - October 12 - December 20, 1974.

1.09. Geese - October 2 - December 10, 1974.

Section 2 - Bag and Possession Limits

2.01. Mourning doves - bag limit 12 per day, 24 possession  
limit.

2.02. Sora & Virginia rails - (in combination) - 25 per  
day, 25 possession limit.

2.03. Woodcock - 5 per day, 10 possession limit.

2.04. Common Wilson's snipe - 8 per day, 16 possession  
limit.

2.05. Ducks - 4 per day, 8 possession limit. The daily  
duck bag limit of 4 can include only two (2) black ducks and  
two (2) wood ducks. The duck possession limit of 8 can include  
only four (4) black ducks and four (4) wood ducks. During the  
period October 3 - October 11, a hunter may also take two (2)  
blue-winged teal daily and have four (4) in possession. This  
extra limit is in addition to the regular duck bag limits.  
Also, hunters may take two (2) additional scaup (bluebills)  
statewide. This extra limit is in addition to the regular  
duck bag limits.

2.06. Mergansers - 5 per day, 10 possession limit. The daily merganser bag limit can include only one (1) hooded merganser, and the possession limit for hooded mergansers is two (2).

2.07. Coots - 15 per day, 30 in possession.

2.08. Gallinules - 15 per day, 30 in possession.

2.09. No open season on blue or snow geese, swans, king rails, brants, canvasback or redhead ducks.

2.10. Shooting hours are one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) hour before sunrise to sunset for all migratory birds except mourning doves which may only be hunted from noon (12:00 p.m. prevailing time) to sunset. On opening days October 2 and December 18 waterfowl cannot be hunted until 12:00 p.m. prevailing time to sunset.

### Section 3 - General Regulations

3.01. Everyone who has attained the age of 16 years must have an unexpired Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (commonly called a "Duck Stamp") on his person validated by his signature in ink across the face of the stamp to hunt ducks and geese.

3.02. A "Duck Stamp" is not needed to hunt doves, coots, rails, gallinules, snipe, or woodcock.

3.03. It is lawful to hunt waterfowl on the major waterways, lakes, and reservoirs of the State during the gun season for deer should the waterfowl season be open at that time.

3.04. When hunting migratory birds you cannot use:

(a) A shotgun larger than 10-gauge, or one capable

of holding more than three shells unless plugged with a one-piece filler which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

(b) A trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel or machine gun.

(c) Live birds as decoys.

(d) Bait (shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other food) to lure or attract birds.

(e) Electronic recordings or electrically amplified imitation of bird calls.

(f) Livestock as a blind or means of concealment.

(g) Any motor-drive land, water, or air conveyance or a sailboat to concentrate, drive, rally, or stir up waterfowl.

3.05. When hunting migratory birds you can use:

(a) A motor boat as a shooting site if it is beached, resting at anchor, or tied to a hunting blind or other fixed object. However, rails may be taken from a boat with the motor attached when the motor is shut off, forward progress from power has ceased, and the boat is immobile or being propelled by paddle, oars, or pole.

(b) Motor-driven boats to retrieve injured or dead birds, if you do not shoot.

(c) A motorboat from which to shoot cripples after motor is shut off, anchor dropped, and forward motion has ceased.

(d) Dogs for both flushing and retrieving waterfowl.

(e) Long bow and arrow, or a shotgun not larger than 10-gauge and limited to three-shell capacity by construction or by plugging, as described on the preceding page.

(f) A blind or other type of concealment except a sinkbox or livestock.

3.06. One fully-feathered wing or head must remain attached to all migratory game birds, except doves, at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a commercial preservation facility.

3.07. Any package or container in which birds are being transported by common carrier must have the name and address of the shipper and consignee, and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of birds contained therein conspicuously marked on the outside.

#### Section 4. Special State Regulations

4.01. McClintic Wildlife Station - Hunting hours for all game will be from legal shooting time until 12:00 noon (prevailing time) October 2 - October 18, 1974 in the migratory game bird area. This area is so marked by signs. This includes ponds 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 41.

4.02. Mason County, including the Ohio River to the north of the Kanawha River, shall be closed to hunting Canada Geese.