



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CHARLESTON 25305
August 10, 1977

DAVID C. CALLAGHAN
Director

The Honorable A. James Manchin
Secretary of State of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

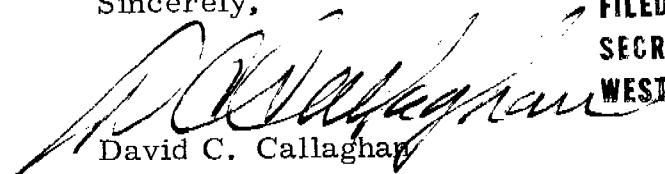
Dear Secretary Manchin:

Enclosed are two copies of the West Virginia Administrative Regulations covering the 1977-78 Hunting Seasons for Waterfowl and Other Migratory Game Birds, designated Series IX of Chapter 20-1, superseding those currently on file for 1976-77. Federal guidelines have not been established for waterfowl at this time, and we will file an addendum to these regulations as soon as the Federal Guidelines are received.

In order to meet the opening date of September 1, as set by the Federal Government, in accordance with the provisions of 29A-3-14, these regulations are being filed on an emergency basis, to be effective September 1, 1977.

It has been determined that it is not necessary to place a legal advertisement concerning these regulations, since the Department has this date released a newsletter to all news media in the State (copy enclosed). Such information shall be available to all interested individuals in West Virginia prior to the opening of the migratory season. Also, such regulations have been submitted to your office for filing in the State register, to be permanent after the thirty-day period.

Sincerely,


David C. Callaghan
Director

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE OF
WEST VIRGINIA

THIS DATE 8/12/77

DCC:jrm
Enclosures

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
Department of Natural Resources

Chapter 20-1
Series IX
(1977)

Subject: 1977-78 Hunting Seasons for Migratory Game Birds

By virtue of the authority granted to the Natural Resources Commission of the Department of Natural Resources by Article 1, Section 17, Chapter 20 of the Code of West Virginia, the following hunting seasons and regulations for migratory game birds are hereby promulgated and shall become effective at 12:00 noon on September 1, 1977, and shall expire at sunset on January 3, 1978, 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 1 - October 31, 1977 and December 26 - January 3, 1978.
- 1.02. Sora and Virginia rails - October 15 - December 23, 1977.
- 1.03. Woodcock - October 15 - December 17, 1977.
- 1.04. Common snipe - September 12 - December 27, 1977.

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Section 2 - Bag and Possession Limits

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

2.02. Sora and 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. King and Clapper rails - No open season.

2.06. 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.

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 open lakes, rivers and waterways of the State during the antlered deer season should the waterfowl season be open at that time.

3.04. 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. 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.

3.05. When hunting migratory birds you can use:

(a) A motorboat 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 in the following paragraph.

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

3.06. 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-driven land, water, or air conveyance or a sailboat to concentrate, drive, rally, or stir up waterfowl.



NEWS

from

WEST VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Charleston, West Virginia



Information & Education Division

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August 12, 1977

CONTENTS

DOVE AND SNIPE SEASONS

HUNTERS SHOULD APPLY

WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

FOR DUCK BLIND PERMITS

-- -- --

-- -- --

DEADLINE NEARS

FUNDS ARE DEPLETED

FOR DEER HUNTERS

FOR BEAR DAMAGE CLAIMS

DOVE AND SNIPE SEASONS

WILL OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

The first half of West Virginia's mourning dove season will open at noon on Sept. 1 and end at sunset on Oct. 31, according to Richard Hall, DNR supervisor of game management. The second part of the split season will open at noon on Dec. 26 and end at sunset on Jan. 3, 1978.

Shooting hours for mourning doves hunting will be noon to sunset each day of the season. Bag limits are 12 per day and 24 in possession. West Virginia's estimated 4,000 dove hunters bagged approxi-

(more)

mately 40,000 birds last year.

The season for common (Wilson's) snipe will open one-half hour before sunrise on Sept. 12 and close at sunset on Dec. 27. Shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise till sunset during the season with bag limits of eight per day and 16 in possession.

Mourning dove hunting prospects appear to be good in the Eastern Panhandle and Ohio Valley counties, according Hall who suggests that hunters look for corn fields that have been cut for silage.

"Shotguns must be plugged and cannot contain more than three shells when hunting any migratory bird" says Hall. "Hunters must get permission to hunt on private property and should respect the rights of the property owner."

HUNTERS SHOULD APPLY

FOR DUCK BLIND PERMITS

Hunters who wish to hunt waterfowl on McClintic Public Hunting and Fishing Area near Pt. Pleasant during the period Oct. 6-22 should apply immediately for a blind in the controlled waterfowl hunt area, according to James M. Ruckel, assistant wildlife chief.

To obtain one of these free permits to hunt in the controlled waterfowl area, hunters must provide the following information on a post card before Aug. 31: name, day or dates chosen for hunting, social security number, address and phone number. The post card must be sent to Duck Blinds, McClintic Public Hunting and Fishing Area, Route 1, Box 125, Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia 25550.

More than 500 hunters applied last year. Chances for obtaining a weekday to hunt are double the chance of getting picked for a Sat-

WEST VIRGINIA

(more)

THIS DATE _____

urday. Selections are made by computer.

Persons who do not apply and want to hunt in the area may take a chance on being selected on the morning of a hunt. Blinds are assigned to standbys when permit holders are absent.

DEADLINE NEARS

FOR DEER HUNTERS

Deer hunters have less than three weeks in which to apply for 1977 antlerless deer season licenses, according to Lois Klatt, DNR game biologist.

All applications must be received by the Elkins Operation Center on or before Aug. 31 to be included in the random computer selection. No exceptions are made.

Hunters can pick up application forms at county clerks' offices, license agents and DNR's district offices.

Counties open to antlerless deer hunting during the special two-day season, Dec. 9-10, will be: Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, Mineral, Tucker and Pendleton east of State Route 220.

FUNDS ARE DEPLETED

FOR BEAR DAMAGE CLAIMS

Black bear damage claims amounting to nearly \$2,500 cannot be paid due to lack of funds in the special bear damage fund, according to Dan E. Cantner, DNR wildlife resources chief.

"Funds probably will not be available until November or late December when the split firearms bear seasons begin," said Cantner. "It is normal to have some bear damage to farm crops and livestock

before many of the natural foods are ripe or abundant. Most of the outstanding claims are for sheep kills in Randolph, Pocahontas and Pendleton counties."

Persons sustaining suspected bear damage to livestock or crops should continue to report all damage immediately to Department of Natural Resources representatives.

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