

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Department of Natural Resources  
Chapter 20-1  
Series IX  
(1979) (1980)

Subject: ~~1979-80~~; 1980-81 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, 1979~~; September 1, 1980, and shall expire at sunset on ~~January 1, 1980~~; January 31, 1981, 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, 1979~~;  
September 1 - October 31, 1980 and ~~December 24 - January 1, 1980~~;  
December 22 - December 30, 1980.

1.02. Sora and Virginia Rails - ~~September 10 - November 17, 1979~~; September 8 - November 16, 1980.

1.03. Woodcock - ~~October-13 -- December-15, -1979;~~

October 18 - December 21, 1980.

1.04. Common Snipe - ~~September-10 -- December-25, -1979;~~

September 8 - December 23, 1980.

## 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.

1980 Season Dates Established for  
Dove, Woodcock, Rail, and Snipe

West Virginia season dates and bag limits for mourning doves, rails, woodcock, and snipe have been established for 1980, according to James M. Ruckel, assistant chief in charge of game management. These regulations were established under guidelines established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A summary of seasons and bag limits is provided in the following table:

	Open Season (All Dates Inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Mourning Doves (Split Season)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 Dec. 22 - Dec. 30	12	24
Sora and Virginia Rails	Sept. 8 - Nov. 16	25	25
Woodcock	Oct. 18 - Dec. 21	5	10
Common Snipe	Sept. 8 - Dec. 23	8	16

There is a major change in the shooting hours for the 1980 dove season. Dove hunting will be permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Traditionally, dove hunting has not been permitted until after 12 noon. The shooting hours for rail, woodcock, and snipe are the same as for dove.

Persons interested in hunting the migratory birds noted above should obtain a copy of the 1980-81 West Virginia Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations. These publications will be available at DNR district offices prior to September 1, 1980. They may also be obtained by writing West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, 1800 Washington Street, East, Charleston, West Virginia 25305.

Approved by: *[Signature]* Date: 8/12/80  
 Approved by: *[Signature]* Date: 8/14/80