

**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
KEN HECHLER  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #5

Do Not Mark In This Box

AUG 24 3 25 PM '99

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WEST VIRGINIA

**NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE  
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

AGENCY: BOC - DNR Wildlife Resources Section TITLE NUMBER: 58

CITE AUTHORITY: §20-1-7(30) and §29A-1-3(c)

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL \_\_\_\_\_ INTERPRETIVE \_\_\_\_\_  
EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW  
§29A-1-3(c)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 55

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS**

September 1, 1999

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John B. Rader, Director

**CIRCUMSTANCE AND SUMMARY FOR EXEMPT RULE  
CONCERNING MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources

**REGULATION:** Title 58, Series 55, Migratory Bird Hunting Rule

**SUMMARY:** Series 55 revises the current Migratory Bird Hunting Rule which was made effective September 1, 1998. This rule prescribes the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight and sex limits with respect to the hunting of migratory game birds in West Virginia. The rule will become effective September 1, 1999.

**CIRCUMSTANCE:** Regulation changes are in compliance with federal guidelines on migratory game bird seasons, dates and bag limits.

## FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULE

**Rule Title:** Series 55, Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

**Type of Rule**    X  **Exempt**       **Legislative**       **Interpretive**       **Procedural**

**Agency**   Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section

**Address**   Capitol Complex

Building 3, Room 842

Charleston, WV 25305

**1. Effect of Proposed Rule**

	ANNUAL			FISCAL YEAR	
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>					
<b>REPAIRS &amp; ALTERATIONS</b>					
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>					
<b>OTHER</b>					

**2. Explanation of above estimates:** There is no change anticipated to administrative expenditures as a result of this rule.

**3. Objectives of these rules:** These regulations establish the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight, and sex limits with respect to the hunting of migratory game birds in West Virginia.

**4. Explanation of overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.**

**A. Economic Impact on State Government:** No impact.

**Rule Title:** Series 55, Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

**B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens:** No impact

**C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large:** Hunting and fishing in West Virginia generates approximately \$707 million annually for the state's economy.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Agency or  
Authorized Representative:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN B. RADER, DIRECTOR

**TITLE 58  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SERIES 55  
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING REGULATIONS  
(EXEMPT RULE)**

FILED  
Aug 24 3 22 PM '99

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

**§58-55-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- These regulations establish the open seasons and the bag, size, age, weight, and sex limits with respect to the hunting of migratory game birds in West Virginia.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§20-1-17(7) and 29A-1-3(c).

1.3. Filing Date. -- August 24, 1999

1.4. Effective Date. -- September 1, ~~1998~~ 1999

1.5. Seasons in General. -- All seasons are subject to change under the provisions of W. Va. Code §29-1-3(c). Opening and closing dates are inclusive and time periods are prevailing time unless otherwise noted in these regulations. Sunday hunting is illegal.

**§58-55-2. Definitions.**

2.1. All terms shall have the meaning prescribed under the Code of State Regulations, Title 58, Series 56 "Special Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations" (58 C.S.R. 56).

**§58-55-3. General Migratory Bird Hunting Rules.**

3.1. Closed Season - No person may take migratory game birds during the closed season.

3.2. Shooting and Falconry Hours - No person may take migratory game birds except during the hours open for shooting and falconry as prescribed in these regulations.

3.3. Daily Bag Limit - No person may take more than the daily bag limit of any migratory game bird.

3.4. Field Possession Limit - No person may possess more than the daily bag limit of any migratory game bird while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, or other place.

3.5. Custody of Birds of Another - No person may receive or have in his/her custody migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

3.6. Possession of Live Birds - No person may at any time, or by any means, possess or transport live migratory game birds taken under 50 C.F.R. Part 20 or under these regulations. Wounded birds reduced to possession must be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

**§58-55-4. Open Shooting and Falconry Seasons.**

4.1. Mourning Dove Season.

4.1.1. The first segment of this season opens on September 1, 1998~~9~~ and closes on October 3~~2~~, 1998~~9~~.

4.1.2. The second segment of this season opens on October 26~~5~~, 1998~~9~~ and closes on November 7~~6~~, 1998~~9~~.

4.1.3. The third segment of this season opens on December 17~~5~~, 1998~~9~~ and closes on January 9~~8~~, 1999~~2000~~.

4.2. Rail Season (Sora and Virginia Rails).

4.2.1. This season opens on September 1, 1998~~9~~ and closes on November 9, 1998~~9~~.

4.2.2. There is no open season for king rails or clapper rails.

4.3. Common Snipe Season.

4.3.1. This season opens on September 1, 1998~~9~~ and closes on December 16, 1998~~9~~.

4.4. Woodcock Season.

4.4.1. This season opens on October 19~~8~~, 1998~~9~~ and closes on November 17~~6~~, 1998~~9~~.

4.5. Special Canada Goose Season.

4.5.1. This season opens on September 1, 1998~~9~~ and closes on September 12~~5~~, 1998~~9~~.

**§58-55-5. Shooting and Falconry Hours.**

5.1. Mourning Doves.

5.1.1. Shooting and falconry hours in the first segment of the mourning dove season are from thirty (30) minutes before sunrise until sunset except on opening day when shooting and falconry hours are from noon until sunset.

5.1.2. Shooting and falconry hours in all other segments of the mourning dove season are from thirty (30) minutes before sunrise until sunset.

5.2. Sora and Virginia Rails.

5.2.1. Shooting and falconry hours are from thirty (30) minutes before sunrise until sunset.

5.3. Common Snipe.

5.3.1. Shooting and falconry hours are from thirty (30) minutes before sunrise until sunset.

5.4. Woodcock.

5.4.1. Shooting and falconry hours are from thirty (30) minutes before sunrise until sunset.

5.5. Special Canada Goose Season.

5.5.1. Shooting and falconry hours are from thirty (30) minutes before sunrise until sunset.

**§58-55-6. Shooting Bag and Possession Limits.**

6.1. Mourning Doves.

6.1.1. The bag limit is twelve (12) doves per day.

6.1.2. The possession limit is twenty-four (24) doves.

6.2. Sora and Virginia Rails.

6.2.1. The bag limit is twenty-five (25) rails in aggregate per day.

6.2.2. The possession limit is twenty-five (25) rails in aggregate.

6.3. Common Snipe.

6.3.1. The bag limit is eight (8) snipe per day.

6.3.2. The possession limit is sixteen (16) snipe.

6.4. Woodcock.

6.4.1. The bag limit is three (3) woodcock per day.

6.4.2. The possession limit is six (6) woodcock.

6.5. Special Canada Goose Season.

6.5.1. The bag limit is three (3) Canada geese per day.

6.5.2. The possession limit is six (6) Canada geese.

**§58-55-7. Falconry Bag and Possession Limits.**

7.1. The bag limit for falconry hunting is three (3) migratory game birds in the aggregate per day.

7.2. The possession limit for falconry hunting is six (6) migratory game birds in the aggregate.