

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission
 Proclamation ~~16-31 15-20~~

~~Migratory Bird Duck, Goose and Crane~~ Hunting Seasons and Regulations

Pursuant to the authority granted by Title 70 Tennessee Code Annotated and Section 70-4-107 thereof, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby proclaims the following migratory bird hunting regulations effective ~~August 1, 2016 - October 1, 2015. Season dates and limits not considered final until the final late season Federal Frameworks are published.~~

Section I. Hunting Seasons -
Seasons close at the end of legal shooting hours on the closing date listed.

Species	Season Opens	Season Closes
Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers		
Reelfoot Duck Zone (The Reelfoot Duck Zone includes the waters of Reelfoot Lake.)	Nov. 4 <u>12</u> Dec. 5 <u>3</u>	Nov. 15 <u>13</u> Jan. 31 <u>29, 2016 2017</u>
Remainder of State	Nov. 28 <u>26</u> Dec. 5 <u>3</u>	Nov. 29 <u>27</u> Jan. 31 <u>29, 2016 2017</u>
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season* (The two Saturdays immediately following the close of the duck-coot and merganser season, for both the Reelfoot Duck Zone and Remainder of State).	<u>The two Saturdays immediately following the close of the duck, coot and merganser season, in both the Reelfoot Duck Zone and Remainder of State).</u> Feb. <u>4</u> and Feb. <u>11, 2017 2016</u>	

*Federal regulations allow only youth waterfowl hunters from 6-15 years of age to participate. An adult at least 21 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field and must remain in a position to take control of the hunting device. This adult ~~may~~ can not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons. Geese, coots, gallinules, moorhens and ducks may be taken by youths during the Youth Waterfowl Season.

Section I. Hunting Seasons (Continued)

Species	Season Opens	Season Closes
Purple Gallinules and Common Moorhens		
Reelfoot Duck Zone	Nov. 14 Dec. 5	Nov. 15 Jan. 31, 2016
Remainder of State	Nov. 28-26 Dec. 5-3	Nov. 29-27 Jan. 31-29, 2016-2017
Virginia Rails and Sora Rails		
Reelfoot Duck Zone	Nov. 14 Dec. 5	Nov. 15 Jan. 31, 2016
Remainder of State	Nov. 28 Dec. 5	Nov. 29 Jan. 31, 2016
White-fronted Geese	Nov. <u>28-26</u> Dec. <u>5-3</u>	Nov. <u>29-27</u> Feb. <u>13-11, 2016-2017</u>
Blue, Snow, and Ross' Geese i.e. "Light geese"	Nov. <u>28-26</u> Dec. <u>5-3</u>	Nov. <u>29-27</u> Feb. <u>13-11, 2016-2017</u>
Standard Federal Regulations Apply		
LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION SEASON for Blue, Snow, and Ross' Geese	Feb. <u>14-12, 2016-2017</u>	March 10, <u>2016-2017</u>

Comment [JB1]: Species moved to Proc 16-30. Season dates moved earlier to coincide with bird migration and occurrence in TN.

Comment [JB2]: Species

A Light Goose Conservation Season Permit and valid hunting license (from any state) are required for all hunters over 16 years of age to participate in this season.

The following Conservation Season Provisions are allowed during this season only: unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, shooting 30 min before official sunrise and shooting until 30 min after official sunset and no daily bag or possession limit.

Brant	Nov. 26-3 Dec. 3	Nov. 27 Jan. 29-31, 2017-6
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Comment [JB3]: No brant have been harvested in the Miss Flyway states in a the previous 5 yrs or longer. These date changes will simplify regulations and allow for goose hunters to harvest a brant if they encounter one during the statewide duck season. It also removes the perception that there are brant to pursuit in TN.

Section I. Hunting Seasons (Continued)

Species	Season Opens	Season Closes
Canada Geese		
Northwest Canada Goose Zone Lake, Obion, Weakley Counties; that portion of and Dyer County, excluding that portion south of Hwy 104; and Gibson County excluding that portion bounded on the south by Hwy 104 and on the west by Hwy 45W.	Oct. 10 <u>8</u> Nov. 14 <u>12</u> Dec. 5 <u>3</u>	Oct. 14 <u>12</u> Nov. 15 <u>13</u> Feb. 13 <u>11</u> , 2016 <u>2017</u>
Statewide Canada Goose Zone	Oct. 10 <u>8</u> Nov. 28 <u>26</u> Dec. 5 <u>3</u>	Oct. 27 <u>25</u> Nov. 29 <u>27</u> Jan. 29 <u>31</u> , 2017 <u>6</u>

The Statewide Goose Zone includes all counties or portions of counties not included in the Northwest Canada Goose Zone.

Sandhill Cranes*

* Hunting is permitted South of Interstate 40 and east of State Highway 56 only.	Nov. 26 <u>8</u> Dec. 3 <u>5</u>	Nov. 27 <u>9</u> Jan. 1, 2017 <u>6</u>
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* 400, 3-permit packets will be issued by handheld draw on or near the Hiwassee WMA. A type 001 Hunting & Fishing License and type 005 waterfowl license are required to enter the Sandhill Crane draw. Leftover permits will be available on a first come basis at regional offices. Permits are invalid until proof of passing a bird identification test the year the permit is obtained and permit is signed by the individual.

Section II. Shooting Hours - Sandhill crane hours are from sunrise to 3:00pm EST. For all other migratory game bird species, hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset daily, unless otherwise noted.

Section III. Daily Bag and Possession Limits

Ducks and Mergansers

The daily bag limit of ducks is 6 which may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be a female), 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 1 black duck.

The daily bag limit of merganser is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

Possession Limit: The maximum number of birds that could have legally been taken in three (3) days, except on opening day and the second day of the season when the possession limit is the daily bag limit and two times the daily bag limit, respectively.

	Daily Bag	Possession
Coots and Gallinules	15	45
Virginia and Sora Rails	25	75
Snow, Blue and Ross's Geese i.e. "Light geese" - <u>Regular Season</u>	20	No Possession Limit, except on opening day and the second day of the season when the possession limit is the daily bag limit and two times the daily bag limit, respectively.
Snow, Blue and Ross's Geese i.e. "Light geese"- <u>Conservation Season</u>	No daily bag	No Possession Limit
White-fronted Geese	2	6
Brant	2	6
Canada Geese	3	9

Comment [JB4]: Moved to Proc 16-30

Comment [JB5]: Moved to Proc 16-30

Sandhill Cranes The daily bag, season bag and possession limit is 3 cranes.

Harvested cranes must be accompanied by a completed kill tag and be checked in by the end of the calendar day of harvest by mailing completed business reply card provided with the permit. Also, hunters must fill out and return a post-season survey, also provided with permit. Failure to return the post-season survey will be a violation of this Proclamation.

Section IV. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. ~~44-11 15-20~~.

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the ___ day of August, ~~2015 2016~~.

Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the ___ day of _____, ~~2015 2016~~.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

Proclamation No. ~~45-20 16-XX~~ received and recorded this ___ day of _____, ~~2015 2016~~; to be effective the ___ day of _____, ~~2015 2016~~.

Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

Proc. ~~45-20 16-31~~