

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT**

Waterfowl Program Legislative Report – 2023

Submitted to:
Vermont Legislature
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
House Committee on Environment and Energy

Submitted by:
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Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
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Waterfowl Program Legislative Report – 2023

1. Public Meeting Summaries

- a. 3/14/23: 4 staff, and 3 public participated
- b. 3/16/23 : 2 board members, 5 staff, and 20 public participated
- c. A total of 23 citizens attended two public meetings/hearings hosted by the Fish and Wildlife Department and Board.

The Department and Board also received 14 comments via email and phone calls. We held in-person meetings and posted a recording of the presentation on the department’s website.

2. Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

2023-2024 VERMONT MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (regulations in effect September 1, 2023 through April 26, 2024)

Species	Lake Champlain Zone	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
Ducks, Coots and Mergansers	Oct. 7 - Oct. 11 Nov. 4 - Dec. 28	Oct. 7 - Dec. 5	Oct. 5 - Nov. 3 Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 14 - Nov. 27 Dec. 1 – Jan. 6	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 14 - Nov. 27 Dec. 1 – Jan. 6	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 5 - Nov. 3 Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 Dec. 22 – Jan. 6 (applies only to land, not CT River waters)
Greater and Lesser Scaup	Oct. 7 – Oct. 11 & Nov. 4 – Dec. 8 (1 bird) Dec. 9 – Dec. 28 (2 bird)	Oct. 7 – Nov. 15 (1 bird) Nov. 16 – Dec. 5 (2 bird)	Oct. 5 – Nov. 3 (1 bird) Nov. 22 – Dec. 21 (1 bird)
Snow Geese (includes blue geese) Conservation Order (CO)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023 Feb. 27 – Mar. 10, 2024 Mar. 11 – Apr. 26, 2024	Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023 Feb. 27 – Mar 10, 2024 Mar..11 – Apr 26, 2024	Oct. 5 - Dec. 21 Mar. 11 – Apr. 26, 2024 <i>applies only to land, not CT River waters</i>
Brant	Oct. 14 - Nov. 12	Oct. 14 - Nov. 12	Oct. 5 – Nov. 3
Woodcock	Statewide	Sept. 30 - Nov. 13	
Wilson’s Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 30 - Nov. 13	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend - September 23 & 24

BAG LIMITS

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take (or possess in the field) during any one day. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow geese.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Possession Limit</u>
Ducks *	6	18
Scaup	1/2	3/6
Mergansers **	5	15
Coot	15	45
Canada Geese		
September season		
Lake Champlain Zone	8	24
Interior Vermont Zone	8	24
Connecticut River Zone	5	15
Oct. - Dec. season		
Lake Champlain Zone	3	9
Interior Vermont Zone	3	9
Connecticut River Zone	2	6
Dec. – Jan. season, all zones	5	15
Snow Geese		
See dates above	25	No limit
Mar. 11 – Apr. 23, 2022	15	No limit
Brant	1	3
Woodcock	3	9
Common Snipe	8	24

* The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no harlequin, and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 1 or 2 scaup depending on dates, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders, and 3 long-tailed duck.

** The daily limit of 5 mergansers is in addition to the regular duck bag.