

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT**

**FINAL MIGRATORY GAME BIRD DAILY BAG AND
POSSESSION LIMITS 2017 REPORT**

Submitted to:
Vermont Legislature
House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife
and
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

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

1. Public Meeting Summaries

- a. 3/16/17 Newport, VT: 5 board members, 3 staff, and 1 public
- b. 3/22/17 Essex, VT: 4 board members, 4 staff, and 22 plus public
- c. 3/23/17 Whitehall, NY: 3 board members, 4 staff, and 18 public

The Department also received 17 comments via email and phone calls.

2. Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

2017–2018 VERMONT MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (regulations in effect September 1, 2017 through April 27, 2018)

Species	Lake Champlain Zone	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
Ducks, Coots and Mergansers	Oct. 11 - Oct. 15 Nov. 7 - Dec.31	Oct. 11 - Dec. 9	Oct. 3 - Nov. 5 Nov. 22 - Dec. 17
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 11 - Nov. 29	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 11 - Nov. 29	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 Oct. 3 - Nov. 5 Nov. 22 - Dec. 27
Snow Geese (includes blue geese) Conservation Order (CO)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2017 Feb 24 – Mar 10, 2018 Mar 11 – Apr 27, 2018	Oct 11 – Dec 31, 2017 Feb 24 – Mar 10, 2018 Mar 11 – Apr 27, 2018	Oct. 3 - Dec. 27 Mar 11 – Apr 27, 2018 <i>applies only to land, not CT River waters</i>
Brant	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5	Oct. 7 - Nov. 5	Oct. 3 - Nov. 5 Nov. 22 - Dec. 17
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14	
Common Snipe	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend - September 23 & 24

BAG LIMIT CHART

The daily bag limit is the maximum number of birds of each species 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.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks *	6	18	Canada Geese		
Mergansers **	5	15	September Season		
Coot	15	45	Lake Champlain Zone	8	24
Brant	2	6	Interior Vermont Zone	8	24
Woodcock	3	9	Connecticut River Zone	5	15
Common Snipe	8	24	Oct.-Dec. Season		
			Lake Champlain Zone	3	9
			Interior Vermont Zone	3	9
			Connecticut River Zone	3	9
			Snow Geese		
			Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2017	25	No limit
			Feb. 24 – Mar. 10, 2018	25	No limit
			Mar. 11 – Apr. 27, 2018 (CO)	15	No limit

* 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 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks.

** The daily limit of 5 mergansers is in addition to the regular duck bag, and together may include no more than 2 hooded mergansers.

White-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada goose daily bag and possession limits.