

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT**

**WATERFOWL PROGRAM
2018 REPORT**

Submitted to:

House Natural Resources, Fish, & Wildlife Committee

and

Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee

Submitted by:

Louis Porter, Commissioner
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
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2018 VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
WATERFOWL PROGRAM

1. Public Meeting Summaries

- a. 3/13/18 Bennington, VT: 4 board members, 5 staff, and 8 public
- b. 3/15/18 Essex, VT: 5 board members, 5 staff, and 27 plus public
- c. 3/20/18 Whitehall, NY: 3 board members, 3 staff, and 14 public

The Department also received 35 comments via email and phone calls.

2. Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

2018-2019 VERMONT MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS
(regulations in effect September 1, 2018 through April 26, 2019)

Species	<u>Lake Champlain Zone</u>	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
Ducks, Coots and Mergansers	Oct. 13 – Oct. 21 Nov. 10 – Dec. 30	Oct. 13 – Dec. 11	Oct. 2 – Nov. 4 Nov. 21 – Dec. 16
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 13 – Dec. 1	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 13 – Dec. 1	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 2 – Nov. 4 Nov. 21 – Dec. 16
Snow Geese (includes blue geese)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2018 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2019 Mar.11 – Apr 26, 2019	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2018 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2019 Mar.11 – Apr 26, 2019	Oct. 2 – Dec. 16 Mar. 11-Apr. 26, 2019 <i>applies only to land, not CT River waters</i>
Brant	Oct. 6 – Dec. 4	Oct. 6 – Dec. 4	Oct. 2 – Nov. 4 Nov. 21 – Dec. 16
Woodcock	Statewide	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	
Common Snipe	Statewide	Oct. 1 – Nov. 14	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend – September 29 & 30

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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.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks *	6	18
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
Snow Geese		
Oct. 11, 2018 – Mar. 10, 2019	25	No limit
Mar. 11, 2019 – Apr. 26, 2019	15	No limit
Brant	2	6
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 duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed duck.

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