

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT**

2024 Waterfowl Program Legislative Report

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

Submitted by:
Andrea Shortsleeve, Interim Commissioner
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
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Waterfowl Program Legislative Report – 2024

1. Public Meeting Summaries

- a. 3/12/24: 1 board member, 5 staff, and 5 public participated
- b. 3/14/24: 2 board members, 6 staff, and 24 public participated
- c. A total of 29 citizens attended two public meetings/hearings hosted by the Fish and Wildlife Department and Board.

The Department and Board also received 20 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

2024-2025 VERMONT MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (regulations in effect September 1, 2024 through April 26, 2025)

Species	Lake Champlain Zone	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
Ducks, Coots and Mergansers	Oct. 12 – Nov. 3 Nov. 23 – Dec. 29	Oct. 12 – Nov. 10 Nov. 23 – Dec. 22	Oct. 9 – Nov. 11 Nov. 27 – Dec. 22
Canada Geese	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 12 – Nov. 10 Dec. 1 – Jan. 19	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 12 – Nov. 10 Dec. 1 – Jan. 19	Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 9 – Nov. 11 Nov. 27 – Dec. 22 Dec. 23 – Jan. 11
Snow Geese (includes blue geese)	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2025 Mar. 11 – Apr 20, 2025	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2025 Mar. 11 – Apr 20, 2025	Oct. 9 – Nov. 11 Nov. 27 – Dec. 22 Mar. 11 – Apr 20, 2025 (applies to land, not CT River waters)
Brant	Oct. 12 – Nov. 10	Oct. 12 – Nov. 10	Oct. 9 – Nov. 7
Woodcock	Statewide	Sept. 28 – Nov. 11	
Common Snipe	Statewide	Sept. 28 – Nov. 11	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend – September 28 & 29

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. - Nov. season		
Lake Champlain Zone	3	9
Interior Vermont Zone	3	9
Connecticut River Zone	2	6
Dec. – Jan. season		
Lake Champlain Zone	5	15
Interior Vermont Zone	5	15
Connecticut River Zone	5	15 (Vermont land portions only)
Snow Geese	25	No limit
Mar. 11 – Apr. 23, 2023	15	No limit
Brant	1	3
Scaup*		
Lake Champlain Zone		
Oct. 12 – Nov. 3 &		
Nov. 23 - Dec. 9	1	3
Dec. 10 - Dec. 29	2	6
Interior Vermont Zone		
Oct. 12 – Nov. 10 &		
Nov. 23 – Dec. 2	1	3
Dec. 3 - Dec. 22	2	6
Connecticut River Zone		
Oct. 9 - Nov. 11	1	3
Nov. 27 - Dec. 22	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 (only 2 of which may be hens), 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 or 1 scaup depending on dates, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders {1 of which may be a hen}, and 3 long-tailed ducks).