

**Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department**

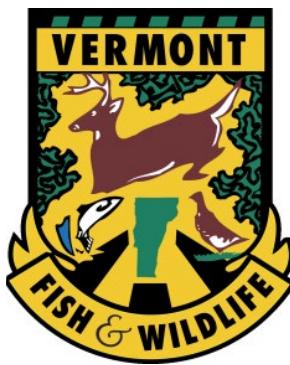
**Annual Report to the Vermont Legislature on**

**Summary of Waterfowl Seasons**

10 V.S.A. § 4082 (b) (2)

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

Submitted by:  
Jason M. Batchelder, Commissioner  
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
January 8, 2026



## Waterfowl Program Legislative Report – 2025

1. Public Meeting Summaries
  - a. 3/11/24: 5 staff, and 10 members of the public participated
  - b. 3/13/24: 1 board members, 6 staff, and 23 members of the public participated
  - c. A total of 33 citizens attended two public meetings/hearings hosted by the Fish and Wildlife Department and Board.

The Department and Board also received 38 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

#### **2025-2026 VERMONT MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS** (regulations in effect September 1, 2025 through April 24, 2026)

Species	Lake Champlain Zone	Interior Vermont Zone	Connecticut River Zone
<b>Ducks, Coots and Mergansers</b>	<b>Oct. 11 – Nov. 2 Nov. 22 – Dec. 28</b>	<b>Oct. 11 – Dec. 9</b>	<b>Oct. 13 – Nov. 11 Nov. 27 – Dec. 26</b>
<b>Canada Geese</b>	<b>Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 11 – Nov. 9 Dec. 1 – Jan. 19</b>	<b>Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 11 – Nov. 9 Dec. 1 – Jan. 19</b>	<b>Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 Oct. 13 – Nov. 11 Nov. 27 – Dec. 26 Dec. 27 – Jan. 15</b>
<b>Snow Geese (includes blue geese)</b>	<b>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2026 Mar. 11 – Apr 20, 2026</b>	<b>Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025 Feb. 26 - Mar. 10, 2026 Mar. 11 – Apr 20, 2026</b>	<b>Oct. 13 – Nov. 11 Nov. 27 – Dec. 26 Mar. 11 – Apr 24, 2026 (applies to land, not CT River waters)</b>
<b>Brant</b>	<b>Oct. 11 – Nov. 9</b>	<b>Oct. 11 – Nov. 9</b>	<b>Oct. 13 – Nov. 11</b>
<b>Woodcock</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Sept. 27 – Nov. 10</b>	
<b>Common Snipe</b>	<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Sept. 27 – Nov. 10</b>	

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend – September 27 & 28

#### **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.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>
Ducks *	6	18
Mergansers	5	15
Coot	15	45
<b>Canada Geese</b>		
September season		
Lake Champlain Zone	8	24
Interior Vermont Zone	8	24
Connecticut River Zone	5	15
Oct. - Nov. season		
Lake Champlain Zone	1	3
Interior Vermont Zone	1	3
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. 24, 2026	15	No limit
Brant	1	3
<b>Scaup*</b>		
Lake Champlain Zone		
Oct. 11 – Nov. 2 &		
Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	1	3
Dec. 9 - Dec. 28	2	6
Interior Vermont Zone		
Oct. 11 – Nov. 19	1	3
Nov. 20 - Dec. 9	2	6
Connecticut River Zone		
Oct. 13 - Nov. 11	1	3
Nov. 27 - Dec. 26	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, 3 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).