TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 6 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

19.31.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in migratory game bird management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds and fish.
[19.31.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.3 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, ~~2024~~2025 - March 31, ~~2025~~2026.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2024, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons, regulations, rules and procedures governing the issuance of migratory game bird licenses and permits by the department.
[19.31.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.6 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area extending approximately 3,500 feet south of U.S. 60 and 2,200 feet west of the Unit 7 drain.

B. "Bernardo youth unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area immediately south of the Quagmire, west of the San Francisco ditch, and east of the unit 7 drain.

C. "Central flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico east of the continental divide.

D. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.

E. "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

F. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

G. "Dove north zone" or "north zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

H. "Dove south zone" or "south zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

I. "Eastern New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "eastern" shall mean the following counties: Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay and Roosevelt.

J. "Estancia valley sandhill crane hunt area" or "EV" shall mean that area beginning at Mountainair bounded on the west by N.M. 55 north to N.M. 337, north to N.M. 14, and north to Interstate 25; on the north by Interstate 25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to N.M. 55 in Mountainair.

K. "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

L. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those 17 years of age and younger may hunt ducks, coots and gallinules in the Pacific flyway or ducks and coots in the central flyway. A supervising adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter. The adult may not hunt ducks, coots or gallinules, but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days.

M. "Light geese" shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese and Ross's geese.

N. "Light goose conservation order" shall mean those methods, bag and possession limits and dates approved by the U.S. fish and wildlife service towards reducing over-abundant light goose populations.

O. **"Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area"** shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.

P. **"Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area"** shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.

Q. **"Migratory game bird"** shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, gallinule, snipe, ducks, geese, sora and Virginia rail.

R. **"North zone"** shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway north of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

S. **"Pacific flyway"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide.

T. **"Possession limit"** shall mean the number of birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored.

U. **"Quagmire"** shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area south of U.S. 60, west of the San Francisco ditch, and east of the unit 7 drain, excluding the Bernardo youth unit at the southern tip.

V. **"South zone"** shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway south of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

W. **"Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area" or "southwest BPHA"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of Interstate 25.

X. **"Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "SW"** shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.

Y. **"Unit D"** shall mean only the ephemeral pond or wetland portion of Bernardo WMA contained within the area extending approximately 1,700 feet north of U.S. 60, east of the railroad tracks, and west of the unit 7 drain.

Z. **"Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs"** shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.8 **ADJUSTMENT OF SANDHILL CRANE PERMITS:** The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of permits to address significant changes in harvest levels. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes.

[19.31.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.8 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.9 **LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** ~~**A. License:** A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number shall be required.~~ Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to have in their possession a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory birds without a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

~~**(1)**~~ **A.** Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.

~~**(2)**~~ **B.** For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane and SW sandhill crane: in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.

~~**(3)**~~ **C.** For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

~~**(4)**~~ **D.** For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

~~**B. Valid dates of license or permit:**~~ **E.** All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.

[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.10 **MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:**

A. **Hours:** Migratory game birds may be hunted or taken only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise stated in rule.

(1) Migratory bird hunting hours on the Bottomless lakes overflow, and Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya and W.S. Huey WMAs shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated in rule.

(2) September teal hunting hours on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(3) Light goose conservation order hunting hours, including Bernardo pond unit and Unit D, shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Exceptions: Bottomless lakes overflow, Bernardo Quagmire, and Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya and W.S. Huey WMAs hunting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m.

B. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled or managed by the state game commission:

(1) State wildlife management areas open, species that can be hunted and days open for hunting:

(a) Bernardo WMA:

(i) That portion of the Bernardo WMA south of U.S. 60 is open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and the federal youth waterfowl hunting days. That portion of the Bernardo WMA north of U.S. 60 is closed unless otherwise stated in rule.

(ii) The Quagmire shall be open only on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iii) The Bernardo pond unit shall be open for general waterfowl hunting and during the light goose conservation order on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iv) The Bernardo youth unit shall be open for youth waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule

(v) Unit D shall be open for general waterfowl hunting and during the light goose conservation order on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(b) The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, Water canyon, Marquez/LBar and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for hunting dove and band-tailed pigeon during established seasons.

(c) The portion of Jackson lake WMA west of N.M. 170 shall be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe. The portion of Jackson lake WMA east of N.M. 170 shall be open to falconry-only migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(d) The lesser prairie-chicken management areas, Double E and River Ranch WMAs shall be open to hunt dove during established seasons.

(e) La Joya WMA:

(i) the entire La Joya WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and each day of the federal youth waterfowl hunting days;

(ii) that portion of La Joya WMA north of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iii) that portion of La Joya WMA south of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iv) that portion of La Joya WMA east of the railroad tracks shall be open to hunt dove, ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons.

(f) The Charette lake, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, Socorro-Escondida, Hammond tract and Retherford tract WMAs shall be open for all migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(g) The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during established seasons.

(2) All WMAs shall be open to falconry waterfowl hunting each day of the established falconry season, unless otherwise restricted by rule.
[19.31.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.10 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: ~~2024~~2025-~~2025~~2026 season, all dates are ~~2024~~2025 unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

~~species~~	~~open areas~~	~~season dates~~	~~daily bag limit~~
~~mourning and white-winged dove~~	~~north zone~~	~~Sept. 1 – Nov. 29~~	~~15 (singly or in aggregate)~~
	~~south zone~~	~~Sept. 1 – Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 – Jan. 1, 2025~~	
~~band-tailed pigeon~~	~~southwest BPHA~~	~~Oct. 1 – 14~~	~~2~~
	~~statewide except southwest BPHA~~	~~Sept. 1 – 14~~	
~~regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)~~	~~eastern~~	~~Oct. 26 – Jan. 23, 2025~~	~~3 (6 in possession)~~

~~**CENTRAL FLYWAY:** possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.~~

~~species~~	~~season dates~~	~~daily bag limit~~
~~September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal~~	~~Sept. 14 – 22~~	~~6 (singly or in the aggregate)~~
~~ducks~~	~~north zone: Oct. 12 – Jan. 15, 2025~~	~~6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback~~
	~~south zone: Oct. 28 – Jan. 31, 2025~~	
~~youth waterfowl days~~	~~north zone: Oct. 5 – 6~~	~~**Ducks**: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback~~ ~~**Coots:** 15~~
	~~south zone: Oct. 26 – Oct. 27~~	
~~American coot~~	~~north zone: Oct. 12 – Jan. 15, 2025~~	~~15~~
	~~south zone: Oct. 28 – Jan. 31, 2025~~	
~~gallinule~~	~~Sept. 14 – Nov. 22~~	~~1~~
~~snipe~~	~~Oct. 12 – Jan. 26, 2025~~	~~8~~
~~Virginia rail & sora~~	~~Sept. 14 – Nov. 22~~	~~10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)~~
~~dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties~~	~~Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~5~~
~~dark goose: special MRGV season~~	~~Dec. 19 – Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~2 (2 per season)~~
~~light goose~~	~~Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~50 (no possession limit)~~
~~light goose conservation order~~	~~Feb. 1 – Mar. 10, 2025~~	~~no bag or possession limit~~

~~**PACIFIC FLYWAY:** possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.~~

~~Species~~	~~season dates~~	~~daily bag limit~~

~~youth waterfowl days~~	~~Oct. 12 - 13~~	~~**Ducks**: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback; **Coots and gallinules:** 25 (singly or in the aggregate)~~
~~Ducks~~	~~Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback~~
~~Scaup~~	~~Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2025~~	~~2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)~~
~~American coot and gallinule~~	~~Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~25 (singly or in the aggregate)~~
~~Snipe~~	~~Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~8~~
~~Virginia rail & sora~~	~~Sept. 14 - Nov. 22~~	~~25 (singly or in the aggregate)~~
~~Goose~~	~~north zone: Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2025~~ ~~south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025~~	~~5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese~~

species	**open areas**	**season dates**	**daily bag limit**
mourning and white-winged dove	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)
	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2026	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 25 - Jan. 22, 2026	3 (6 in possession)

CENTRAL FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	**season dates**	**daily bag limit**
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal	Sept. 13 - 21	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 11 - Jan. 14, 2026	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2026	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Oct. 4 - 5	**Ducks**: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback **Coots**: 15
	south zone: Oct. 25 – Oct. 26	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 11 - Jan. 14, 2026	15
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2026	
gallinule	Sept. 13 - Nov. 21	1
snipe	Oct. 11 - Jan. 25, 2026	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 13 - Nov. 21	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)

dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2026	2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2026	no bag or possession limit

PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

Species	**season dates**	**daily bag limit**
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 11 - 12	**Ducks**: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback; **Coots and gallinules:** 25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2026	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
Scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2026	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2026	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 13 - Nov. 21	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 27 - Oct. 12 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2026	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: ~~2024~~2025-~~2025~~2026 season, all dates are ~~2024~~2025 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

~~**CENTRAL FLYWAY**~~		
~~**species**~~	~~**open areas**~~	~~**season dates**~~
~~mourning and white-winged dove~~	~~north~~	~~Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2025~~
	~~south~~	~~Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2025~~
~~band-tailed pigeon~~	~~southwest BPHA~~	~~Oct. 1 - 14~~
	~~statewide except southwest BPHA~~	~~Sept. 1 - 14~~
~~sora and Virginia rail~~	~~all~~	~~Sept. 14 - Dec. 28~~
~~snipe~~	~~all~~	~~Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2025~~
~~gallinule~~	~~all~~	~~Sept. 14 - Dec. 28~~
~~ducks and coots~~	~~north~~	~~Sept. 14 - 22 and Oct. 12 - Jan 15, 2025~~
	~~south~~	~~Sept. 14 - 22 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2025~~
~~goose (light and dark)~~	~~all~~	~~Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
~~goose (dark)~~	~~MRGV~~	~~Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
~~sandhill crane~~	~~regular (eastern)~~	~~Oct. 12 - Jan. 23, 2025; 3 (6 in possession)~~
	~~Estancia valley~~	~~Nov. 2 - Dec. 31; 3 (6 in possession)~~
~~**PACIFIC FLYWAY**~~		
~~**species**~~	~~**open areas**~~	~~**season dates**~~
~~mourning and white-winged dove~~	~~north~~	~~Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2025~~
	~~south~~	~~Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2025~~
~~band-tailed pigeon~~	~~southwest BPHA~~	~~Oct. 1 - 14~~
	~~statewide except southwest BPHA~~	~~Sept. 1 - 14~~

~~ducks~~	~~all~~	~~Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
~~scaup~~	~~all~~	~~Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2025~~
~~goose (all)~~	~~north~~	~~Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
	~~south~~	~~Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
~~snipe~~	~~all~~	~~Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
~~coots and gallinule~~	~~all~~	~~Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025~~
~~sora and Virginia rail~~	~~all~~	~~Sept. 14 - Nov. 22~~

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	**open areas**	**season dates**
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2026
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2026
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 13 - Dec. 27
snipe	all	Oct. 11 - Jan. 25, 2026
gallinule	all	Sept. 13 - Dec. 27
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 13 - 21 and Oct. 11 - Jan 14, 2026
	south	Sept. 13 - 21 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2026
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2026
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 11 - Jan. 22, 2026; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Nov. 1 - Dec. 30; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	**open areas**	**season dates**
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2026
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2026
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2026
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2026
goose (all)	north	Sept. 27 - Oct. 12 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2026
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2026
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2026
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 13 - Nov. 21

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.13 RESERVED

[19.31.6.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.13 NMAC, 9/1/2022; Repealed, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:

Blind selection will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult who may not hunt. A maximum of four people, at least half of which must be youth hunters, is allowed per blind.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

19.31.6.15 SEASON DATES, OPEN AREAS, BAG LIMITS, HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:

A. The daily bag limit is 3. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for the MRGV youth-only hunt where the daily bag and possession limit is 3. The hunting seasons for ~~2024~~2025-~~2025~~2026 are:

~~hunt location~~	~~hunt dates~~	~~hunt code~~	~~permits~~
~~EV~~	~~Nov. 2 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 7 - Nov. 10~~	~~SCR-0-101~~	~~65~~
~~MRGV~~	~~Nov. 16 - 17~~	~~SCR-0-102~~	~~85~~
~~MRGV~~	~~Nov. 30 - Dec. 1~~	~~SCR-0-103~~	~~85~~
~~MRGV~~	~~Dec. 14 - 15~~	~~SCR-0-104~~	~~85~~
~~MRGV~~	~~Jan. 4 - 5, 2025~~	~~SCR-0-105~~	~~85~~
~~MRGV~~	~~Jan. 11 - 12, 2025~~	~~SCR-0-106~~	~~85~~
~~MRGV, youth-only~~	~~Nov. 23~~	~~SCR-0-107~~	~~24~~
~~SW~~	~~Nov. 2 - Nov. 10~~	~~SCR-0-108~~	~~75~~
~~SW~~	~~Jan. 4 - 5, 2025~~	~~SCR-0-109~~	~~75~~

hunt location	**hunt dates**	**hunt code**	**permits**
EV	Nov. 1 - Nov. 4 and Nov. 6 - Nov. 9	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 15 - 16	SCR-0-102	87
MRGV	Nov. 29 - Nov. 30	SCR-0-103	87
MRGV	Dec. 13 - 14	SCR-0-104	87
MRGV	Jan. 3 - 4, 2026	SCR-0-105	87
MRGV	Jan. 10 - 11, 2026	SCR-0-106	87
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 22	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Nov. 1 - Nov. 9	SCR-0-108	75
SW	Jan. 3 - 4, 2026	SCR-0-109	77

B. Hunters who participate in the MRGV season shall be required to check-out at designated check stations when they harvest any sandhill cranes.

C. The department may cancel one or more EV, MRGV or SW sandhill crane hunts if harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9/1/2025]

HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC Filing History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/67; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Common Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/68; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing

1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707,Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

NMAC History:
19 NMAC 31.6, Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1995
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013

History of Repealed Material:
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000 - duration expired 3/31/2002
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002 - duration expired 3/31/2003
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2004
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2005
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005 - duration expired 3/31/2006
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2007

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007 - duration expired 3/31/2008
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008 - duration expired 3/31/2009
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2010
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2011
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011 - duration expired 3/31/2012
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012 - duration expired 3/31/2013
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013 - duration expired 3/31/2014
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/31/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2015
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9/1/2015 - duration expired 3/31/2016
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/30/2016 - duration expired 3/31/2017
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2018
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/2/2018 - duration expired 3/31/2019
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/28/2019 - duration expired 3/31/2020
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/20 - duration expired 3/31/2021
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/12/21 - duration expired 3/31/2022
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/22 - duration expired 3/31/2023
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/3/23 - duration expired 3/31/2024
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/15/24 - duration expired 3/31/2025