PROPOSED MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE SUMMARY, 2025–2026

Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. Please note that seasons are not considered final until they have been published in the Federal Register.

Proposed amendments for the 2025–26 season include:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Based on population survey data, increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 12 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Bag limit for northern pintail to increase from 1 to 3 per USFWS regulatory framework

Proposed Central Flyway Seasons. Includes falconry, youth waterfowl days, and a 9-day September teal season.

Species	**Zone**	**Open**	**Close**
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 11	Jan. 14
	South Zone	Oct. 28	Jan. 31
Geese:			
Dark Geese	MRGV	Dec. 19	Jan. 31
	Rest of State	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Light Geese	North and South Zones	Oct. 17	Jan. 31

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Proposed Pacific Flyway Seasons. Includes falconry and youth waterfowl days.

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North and South Zones	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
Scaup	North and South Zones	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
All Geese:	North 1	Sept. 27	Oct. 12
	North 2	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South	Oct. 17	Jan. 31

If you would like to comment on the proposal, send email to: DGF-waterfowl@dgf.nm.gov

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