

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission (“Commission”) will be hosting a meeting and rule hearing on Friday August 9, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Taos, NM. The exact location will be posted on the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: 1) presentation of proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule; and 2) presentation of proposed changes to the Bighorn Sheep Rule.

Synopsis:

Migratory Game Bird Rule

The proposal is to amend the Migratory Game Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC which will become effective September 1, 2024. The most recent version of the rule expired on March 31, 2024.

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Change certain season dates to be later in the year because of calendar shift
- Based on population survey data, increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 35 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework
- Central Flyway scaup limit to decrease from 3 to 1 per USFWS regulatory frameworks
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible waterfowl hunting during the regular season
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible hunting for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
- Open Bernardo Ponds Unit for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

Bighorn Sheep Rule

The proposal is to amend the Bighorn Sheep Rule 19.31.17 NMAC which will become effective April 1, 2025. The current rule will expire on March 31, 2025.

- Extend the bighorn sheep rule for two more years. This extension would align the Bighorn Rule with the expiration of the other Big Game rules and future rule development.

A full text of changes for all rules will be available on the Department’s website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us. Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes for the Migratory Game Bird Rule to DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us. Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes for the Bighorn Sheep Rule to DGF-Bighorn-Rule@state.nm.us. Individuals may also submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2024. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on August 9, 2024. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearings to be held on August 9, 2024.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rules, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department’s website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/. This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director’s Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department’s website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission's Power to establish rules and regulations 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.

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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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, ~~2023~~2024 - March 31, ~~2024~~2025.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, ~~2023~~2024, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area ~~600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.~~ ~~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 Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tukumcari 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 Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tukumcari 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 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain, 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.
- YZ.** "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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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) 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) 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) 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) 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:** 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, 9/1/2024]

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 specifically allowed or restricted by rule stated in rule.

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

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

(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 ~~except during the light goose conservation order~~ 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, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: ~~2023~~2024-20242025 season, all dates are ~~2023~~2024 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, 2024	
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. 28 – Jan. 28, 2024	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. 9 – 17	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone:	Oct. 7 – Jan. 10, 2024	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, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback
	south zone:	Oct. 28 – Jan. 31, 2024	
youth waterfowl days	north zone:	Sept. 23 – 24	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, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15
	south zone:	Sept. 30 – Oct. 1	
American coot	north zone:	Oct. 7 – Jan. 10, 2024	15
	south zone:	Oct. 28 – Jan. 31, 2024	
gallinule		Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	1
snipe		Oct. 7 – Jan. 21, 2024	8
Virginia rail & sora		Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)

dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 – Jan. 31, 2024	2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 – Mar. 10, 2024	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. 7 – 8	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, 2024	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, 2024	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 – Jan. 31, 2024	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 23 – Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 – Jan. 31, 2024 south zone: Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024	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 south zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29 Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2025	15 (singly or in aggregate)
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA statewide except southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14 Sept. 1 - 14	2
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 south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 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
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Oct. 5 - 6 south zone: Oct. 26 – Oct. 27	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
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	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 20232024-20242025 season, all dates are 20232024 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, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 - Dec. 24
snipe	all	Oct. 7 - Jan. 21, 2024
gallinule	all	Sept. 9 - Dec. 24
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 7 - Jan. 10, 2024
	south	Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2024
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024

sandhill crane	regular (eastern) Estancia valley	Oct. 14 - Jan. 28, 2024; 3 (6 in possession) Oct. 28 - Dec. 26; 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, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2024
goose (all)	north	Sept. 23 - Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2024
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17

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

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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 ~~20232024~~ ~~20242025~~ are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct. 28 – Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 – Nov. 5	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 11 – 12	SCR-0-102	80
MRGV	Nov. 25 – Nov. 26	SCR-0-103	80
MRGV	Dec. 9 – 10	SCR-0-104	80
MRGV	Jan. 6 – 7, 2024	SCR-0-105	80
MRGV	Jan. 13 – 14, 2024	SCR-0-106	80
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 18	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 28 – Nov. 5	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 6 – 7, 2024	SCR-0-109	70

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

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, 9/1/2024]

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

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NMAC

Transmittal Form



Volume: Issue: Publication date: Number of pages: (ALD Use Only) Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address: Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name: Phone number: E-mail address:

Type of rule action: New Amendment Repeal Emergency Renumber (ALD Use) Recent filing date:

Title number: Title name:

Chapter number: Chapter name:

Part number: Part name:

Amendment description (If filing an amendment):
Amendment's NMAC citation (If filing an amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference? Yes No Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received? Yes No Public domain

Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

Notice date(s): Hearing date(s): Rule adoption date: Rule effective date:

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Concise Explanatory Statement For Rulemaking Adoption:

Findings required for rulemaking adoption:

Findings MUST include:

- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
- Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Migratory Game Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC which will become effective September 1, 2024. The most recent version of the rule expired on March 31, 2024.

The new rule will include:

- 1) Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- 2) Change certain season dates to be later in the year because of calendar shift
- 3) Based on population survey data, increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 35 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- 4) Central Flyway scaup limit to decrease from 3 to 1 per USFWS regulatory frameworks
- 5) Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible waterfowl hunting during the regular season
- 6) Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible hunting for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
- 7) Open Bernardo Ponds Unit for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. There were no substantive arguments made through public comment that were not accepted. To view public comments, please visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the Hearing Archive tab. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter satisfaction.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):

Name:

Michael B. Sloane

Check if authority has been delegated

Title:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Signature: (BLACK ink only OR Digital Signature)

Date signed:

Michael B. Sloane Digitally signed by Michael B. Sloane
Date: 2024.08.13 11:18:17 -06'00'

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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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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 - March 31, 2025.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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 Tatum and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tatum 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 Tatum and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tatum 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.

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- 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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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) 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) 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) 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) 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:** 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, 9/1/2024]

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.

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(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.

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(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, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2024-2025
season, all dates are 2024 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
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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	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 2024-2025 season, all dates are 2024 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

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.13 RESERVED

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[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, 9/1/2024]

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 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 -	SCR-0-102	85
MRGV	Nov. 30 - Dec.	SCR-0-103	85
MRGV	Dec. 14 -	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

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, 9/1/2024]

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;

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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

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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

Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

August 9, 2024

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Taos, NM



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

- **Adjust season dates according to calendar and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks**
- **Adjust bag/possession limits according to USFWS frameworks**
- **Proposed and Final USFWS frameworks published in Federal Register.**



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

- **Change regular migratory game bird season dates based on calendar shift and public comment**
- **Increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 35 total, to be distributed among existing hunts**
- **Pintail bag limit to remain at one**
- **Central Flyway scaup limit to decrease from 3 to 1 per USFWS regulatory frameworks**



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

- **Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the regular season**
- **Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible hunting for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset**
- **Open Bernardo Ponds Unit for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset**



Public Comment

- 9 comments received as of August 8, 2024
- Hybrid public meeting held in Albuquerque and via Zoom on April 18th: Two members of the public attended
- Comments received:
 - Increase draw crane permits
 - Later duck season dates
 - Support for proposed changes



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2024-25 Central Flyway Seasons

Species	Zone	2023–2024		2024–2025	
		Open	Close	Open	Close
Ducks and coots	North Zone	Oct. 7	Jan. 10	Oct. 12	Jan. 15
	South Zone	Oct. 28	Jan. 31	Oct. 28	Jan. 31
Dark geese	MRGV	Dec. 19	Jan. 31	Dec. 19	Jan. 31
	Rest of State	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Light geese	All Central Flyway	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Rails and moorhens	All Central Flyway	Sep. 9	Nov. 17	Sep. 14	Nov. 22
Snipe	All Central Flyway	Oct. 7	Jan. 21	Oct. 12	Jan. 26
Youth waterfowl	North Zone	Sep. 23	Sep. 24	Oct. 5	Oct. 6
	South Zone	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 26	Oct. 27
September teal	All Central Flyway	Sep. 9	Sep. 17	Sep. 14	Sep. 22

- Includes falconry, youth waterfowl days, and September teal



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2024-25 Pacific Flyway Seasons

Species	Zone	2023–2024		2024–2025	
		Open	Close	Open	Close
Ducks and coots	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 19	Jan. 31	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
Scaup	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 19	Jan. 12	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
Dark and light geese	North Zone	Sep. 23	Oct. 8	Sep. 21	Oct. 6
	North Zone	Nov. 2	Jan. 31	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South Zone	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Sora and Virginia rail	All Pacific Flyway	Sep. 9	Nov. 17	Sep. 14	Nov. 22
Snipe	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Youth waterfowl	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 12	Oct. 13

- Includes falconry and youth waterfowl days



Questions?



PROPOSED MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE SUMMARY, 2024–2025

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 2024–25 season include:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Change certain season dates to be later in the year because of calendar shift
- Based on population survey data, increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 35 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework
- Central Flyway scaup limit to decrease from 3 to 1 per USFWS regulatory frameworks
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible waterfowl hunting during the regular season
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible hunting for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
- Open Bernardo Ponds Unit for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

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. 12	Jan. 15
	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

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. 21	Oct. 6
	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



Technical Information for Migratory Game Bird Rule Development



Survey and Harvest Data

Migratory game bird management in the United States, including New Mexico, is a cooperative effort between state and federal governments. Management decisions are based on information gathered from bird population surveys, monitoring of harvest, hunter surveys, public comment, biological information, and environmental surveys. Migratory game bird banding and recovery data, surveys of birds on their breeding areas, as well as wetland condition surveys in waterfowl breeding areas provide the necessary information used to set hunting and harvest regulations for migratory game birds. In New Mexico, the establishment of migratory game bird hunting rules and regulations remains a cooperative process performed annually within the Flyway system. Both the Central and Pacific Flyways are involved in setting hunting regulations for migratory game birds in New Mexico and seasons are selected from within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's federal season frameworks. Survey and harvest data used in setting hunting rules and regulations for New Mexico are included in Figures 1–4.

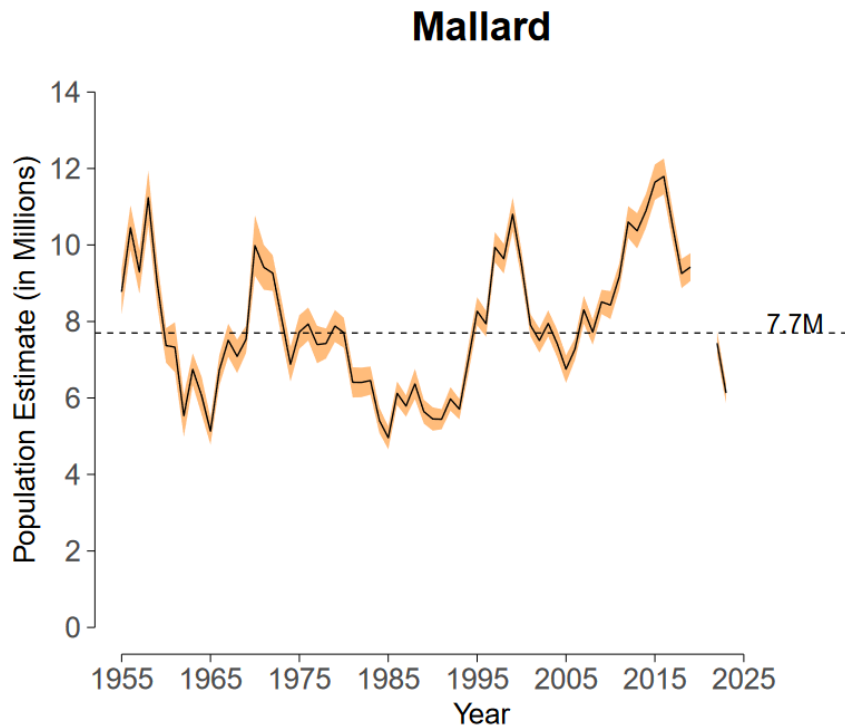


Figure 1. Breeding population estimate, 90% confidence interval, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan goal (dashed line) for mallards in the traditional survey area. Estimated mallard abundance for 2023 was 6.1 ± 0.2 million.

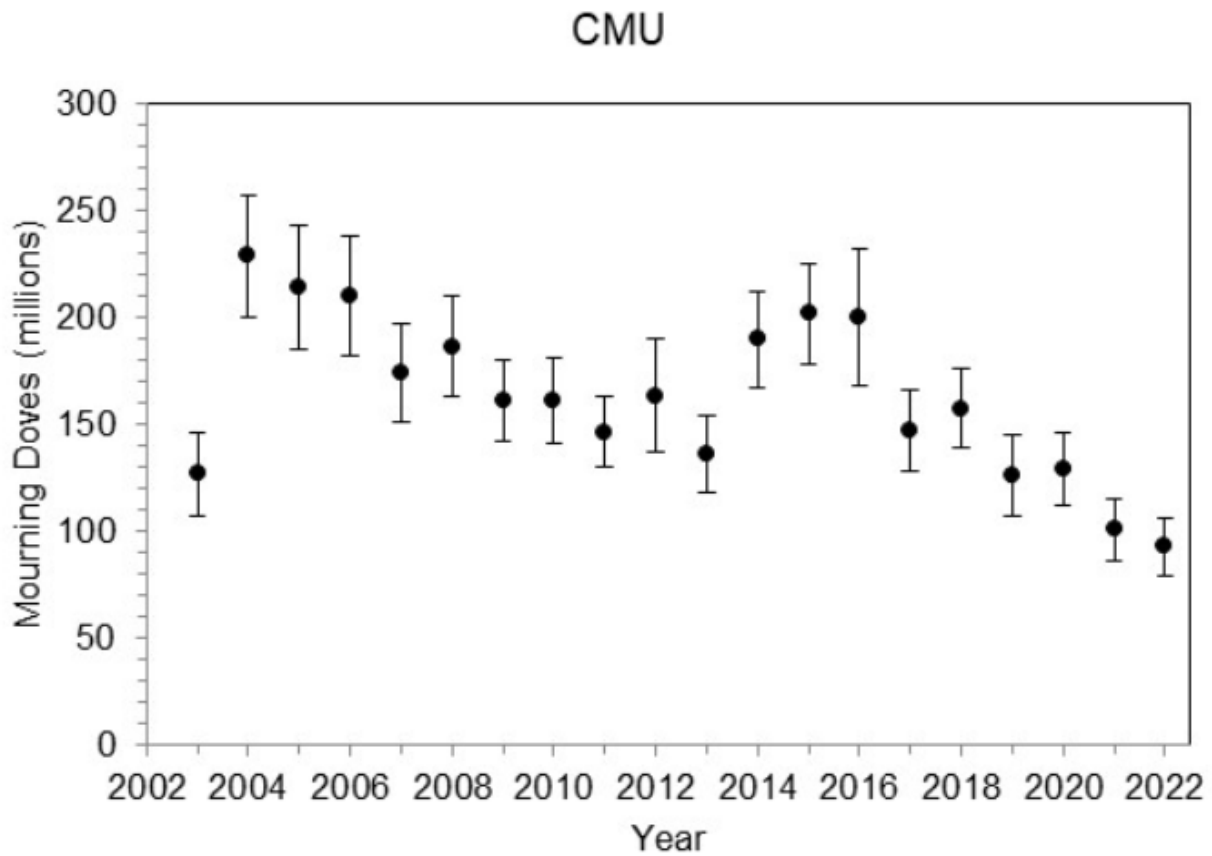


Figure 2. Estimates and 95% confidence intervals of mourning dove absolute abundance in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2022. Estimates are based on band recovery and harvest data.

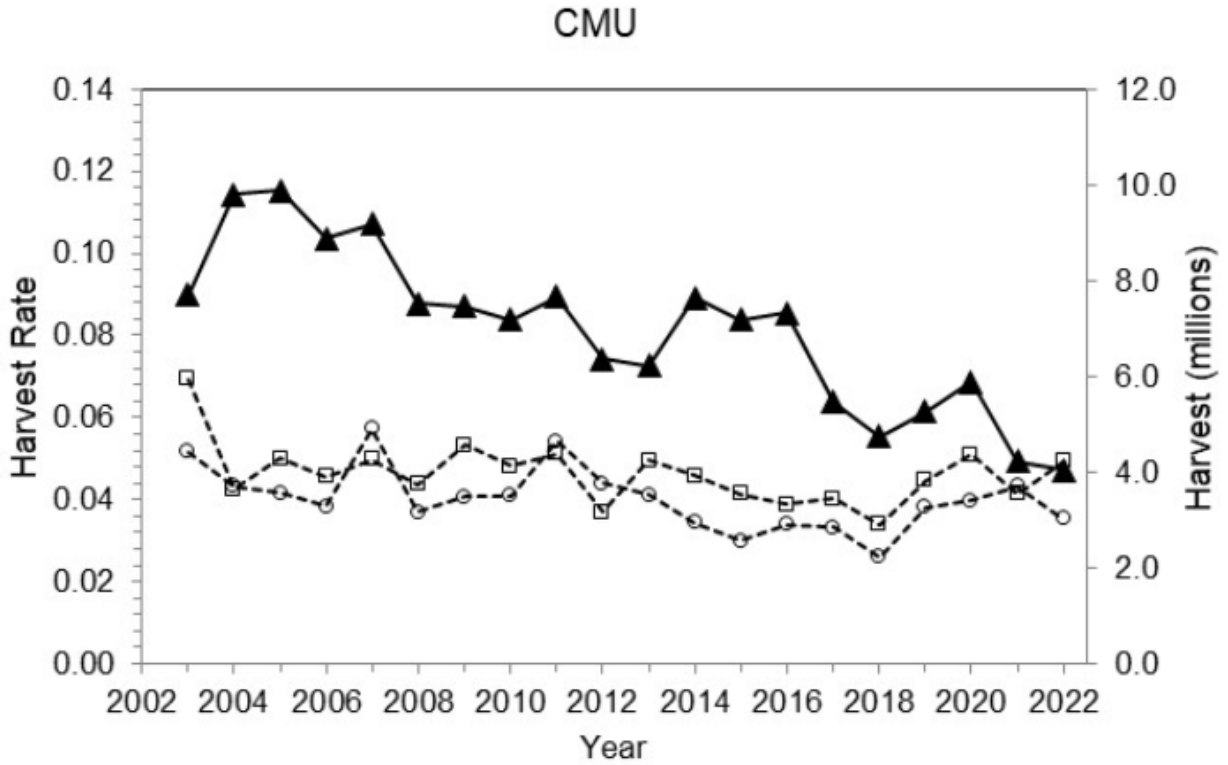


Figure 3. Estimated harvest (triangle) and harvest rates of mourning dove in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2022. Harvest rates are presented separately for hatch-year (square) and after-hatch-year (circle) doves.

Year	Colorado ^a	Idaho	Montana	Utah	Wyoming	Total
1987	1,443	10,686	1,447	1,578	2,327	17,481
1992	3,181	5,801	5,264	2,810	2,248	19,304
1995	2,284	6,864	3,681	1,528	1,671	16,028
1996	1,255	8,334	2,974	1,849	2,526	16,938
1997	1,604	8,132	3,595	2,450	2,255	18,036
1998	1,273	8,067	3,415	2,185	3,162	18,102
1999	1,102	8,761	3,141	2,292	4,205	19,501
2000	749	9,337	3,598	2,416	3,890	19,990
2001	666	7,160	4,585	1,522	2,626	16,559
2002	1,355	7,698	4,843	1,869	3,038	18,803
2003	745	7,822	4,964	2,546	3,446	19,523
2004	1,410	7,152	4,637	2,239	3,072	18,510
2005	1,052	7,668	5,588	2,646	3,911	20,865
2007	1,743	8,262	6,509	2,401	3,907	22,822
2008	1,080	6,123	6,419	3,708	3,826	21,156
2009	1,162	6,934	6,329	2,283	3,613	20,321
2010	985	5,776	7,335	3,242	3,726	21,064
2011	1,347	5,029	6,642	1,498	2,978	17,494
2012	413	3,432	5,876	2,109	3,587	15,417
2013	1,594	5,228	7,218	2,732	3,588	20,360
2014	1,258	6,064	6,555	2,783	3,008	19,668
2015	1,089	6,454	9,493	3,698	3,596	24,330
2016 ^b	1,135	5,445	7,507	3,298	4,879	22,264
2017	1,658	4,066	7,149	2,994	3,725	19,592
2018	1,908	4,469	7,553	2,770	5,101	21,801
2019	1,879	4,428	7,511	3,106	4,366	21,290
2020	1,446	5,096	9,264	3,222	6,608	25,636
2021	3,141	3,091	7,783	3,889	6,059	23,963
2022	1,526	3,957	6,844	2,330	3,975	18,632
2023	1,740	4,200	10,169	5,631	5,527	27,267
3-yr Mean	2,136	3,749	8,265	3,950	5,187	23,287
All yr Mean	1,441	6,385	5,930	2,654	3,682	20,091

^a Colorado counts include migrants that had arrived at the staging area in the San Luis Valley.

^b Wyoming added six new survey areas per management plan guidelines.

Figure 4. Fall pre-migration indices for Rocky Mountain sandhill cranes.

From: [Impact Outdoors](#)
To: [Cline, Mason, DGF](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Migratory Bird Regulation Proposals
Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 3:08:28 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon, Mason. Thank you for returning my phone call yesterday. As discussed I wanted to send my two proposal ideas over for the 2024-2025 migratory bird season. These are simplified but I am excited to follow-up if considered.

1) Impact Outdoors has helped to run and advance the youth sandhill crane draw hunt with N.M.D.G.F at Bernardo Waterfowl Management Area and Casa Colorado over the last two years. The first year we implemented a volunteer online classroom. This classroom allowed for youth and their adults to learn more about all three subpopulations of migratory sandhill crane. This online classroom allows for our youth to learn high frequency vocabulary to be utilized in the field, the importance of the middle Rio Grande Valley and biodiversity, and scaffolds prior information building a more impactful experience in the field for our youth and adults. As an educator I then utilize high frequency vocabulary as a soft assessment from our youth in the field.

This last year Impact Outdoors and the department combined the online classroom presence with a volunteer habitat improvement at Bernardo prior to our youth hunt date. Almost 70 volunteers assisted in the planting of 260+ plus trees, and multiple volunteer construction companies faced and completed the newly built improved accessibility blinds. Youth were submerged in habitat and biodiversity conversation with local wardens, resident biologists, and their families. Scaffolding even further the information from the online classroom, these youth acquired a sense of pride and stewardship even before their date of harvest and hunt.

This last year when it came time for the youth to check in their harvest the experience was magnified by the opportunity of collaborating with biologists to collect the hard data necessary for proper management of these incredible birds. Opportunities like this foster a well rounded educational experience that promotes conservation through hunting while giving our youth a sense of pride in themselves and the environment.

I would like to propose that the Impact Outdoors Online Classroom, volunteer habitat improvement, and data collection opportunity verbiage would be added to the 2024-2025 migratory bird proclamation. I believe that by doing so our youth will obtain a further level of engagement and experience simply through their parents understanding and involvement. The department and Impact Outdoors would be able to further improve recruitment, reactivation, and retention by simply making mention to the level of involvement that comes with the opportunity. I believe this would set a new standard for education and the youth sandhill crane draw hunt.

2) I would like to propose that the special youth hunt dates for the migratory bird 2024-2025 season would be rescheduled to the weekend after central south zone closes. I would also like to propose that veterans/service members would be added to these said date opportunities. Many states have taken to this as a way of saying thanks to their service members. This particular opportunity lends it's self to positive storytelling for the department. By including both parties to the said dates available we would not need to take any further days from the

public while saying thanks to those who have given all.

Thank you, Mason. Please let me know what you would like expanded on or readjusted. I am completely open to ideas.

Matthew Monjaras

Impact Outdoors

Founder/ Director

5059004758

From: [Wild Trout](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Migratory Bird
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 6:41:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I have no comments or concerns. Other than to say THANK YOU for allowing us to provide comment

Jeff Young
Sandia Park

From: [BATCGentry](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Migratory Game Bird Proposed Changes
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:39:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

In my opinion, I feel you should follow the science of population survey data showing increases in sandhill crane populations, and increase the number of crane hunt permits in the MRGV.

Thank you,
William Gentry Albuquerque, NM

From: [Randy Creighton](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Migratory Bird Rule
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2024 6:59:07 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I was unable to make the meeting today. I have reviewed the proposals and they seem fine. I'm certainly in favor of keeping the season dates for duck season as they have been structured for the last several years (ending Central Flyway south zone on Jan. 31).

Thank you,

Randy Creighton
505-715-0657

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [ABE MOORE](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PROPOSED MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE SUMMARY, 2024–2025
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:02:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Game Commission,

I realize there is way more that goes into determining bag limits, licenses and season dates than I am aware of, that being said, I respect the determinations that you make to best protect our game and hunting as a whole. As an avid Migratory bird hunter since 2005 in the State of New Mexico, I have seen a dramatic decrease in waterfowl in the Central South region (Elephant Butte) until well past the season closing date Jan 31. Now don't get me wrong, the waterfowl get down here, but not until mid to late February. We thought it was just a warm year and the birds didn't get pushed south; the first, second and third years but we have seen this trend for 10 years now. So much so that the two buddies I hunted with all these years, don't hunt anymore, they said it's not worth the hassle of getting all the gear and boat ready since there's never any birds till after the season. As a father I took my son and daughter on their first duck hunt 3 years ago and every year since to Elephant Butte and while we didn't get skunked the numbers of birds is very few. Owning several boats, I've made a point to go to Elephant Butte in mid-February the last five years and the numbers of birds at the lake after the season has closed dramatically increases. I realize this wasn't the rule change you were considering but I ask you to consider moving the opening dates and closing dates back one month Nov 28th-Feb28th. I realize this must sound crazy because I'm sure your committee contains way smarter people than me to testify to the migration of these amazing creatures, but I ask you to call upon your wardens that work my region, they are very aware that our season dates no longer line up with the actual migration of waterfowl. If you do call upon them, make sure to acknowledge a job well done, each year I get checked at least once, and I appreciate these individuals' professionalism, they are top notch!

No matter what you decide I want to thank you for allowing me to offer my two sense on the matter and I appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,

ABE MOORE
OWNER
DARNOLD PLUMBING
O: (575)434-3855
C: (575)491-1603

abemoore@msn.com

PO BOX 2335

2512 N. FLORIDA AVE.

ALAMOGORDO, NM 88311

From: [BRIAN and MELLY LOCKE](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed rule
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 10:03:36 AM

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Dear NMDGF Professional:

I would like to support the proposed rule changes to the migratory bird rule, 19.31.6 NMAC. In particular I support an increase in the permits for sandhill cranes in MRGV.

I would also suggest an increase in tags for the SW part of the state may be allowed. Seems like a relatively high % of the cranes taken in that hunt are of the "lesser" subspecies. Have been when I've been able to draw and hunt in Rio Grande Valley south of Caballo reservoir (vicinity of Garfield, north of Hatch, NM).

In any case, thanks for your efforts for NM wildlife, and for waterfowl hunters.

Sincerely

Brian Locke
Las Cruces, NM

From: [Harry Hall](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Publi Comments Proposed Changes Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 11:44:10 AM

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I opened the links to look for the yellow highlighted changes or lines used to cross out. and found nothing in yellow or lined out.

If NMDGF can't even get a email link right, why should you be allowed to make any changes to any rules, laws, or regulations?

I still have concerns about issuing licenses to anyone who guides for any hunts in New Mexico and fails to register their business in the counties they guide in or even pay taxes to the thousands of dollars they charge both in and out of state resident to take them on guided hunts costing New Mexico County and State Government lost revenues after seeing how much money the public is being charged by some of these so called guided outfitters!.

Fix this first before you start changing the rules on game. and make a rule or regulation guided outfitters cannot be issued a license to guide unless their company or business is registered with tax a revenue in Santa Fe and the local county government, they do business in!

The DGF paid with the public tax dollars collect what is due so maybe different agencies like yourself will quite going broke and having to cut BACK!

How to identify changes that are proposed in draft rules:

- Only sections of the rule which are **highlighted** are being proposed for changes.
- Underlined sections of draft rule are being proposed as new language.
- ~~Strikethrough~~ sections of draft rule are being proposed to be deleted.
- A clean version of each affected draft rule in proposed final form is also being provided.

From: [Gwest01](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stopped hunting most years since becoming a NM resident
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 11:11:14 PM

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I'm really curious to see if anyone would feel comfortable to hear the reason why I responded to notify the commission of my concerns regarding the hunting of game birds in New Mexico?

Perhaps you may be curious and if so perhaps my comments are just and fair. Most of my hunting past was in Texas. I hope you have had the opportunity to do that as well.

I'm pretty sure you would agree that simple enjoyment of hunting is a better experience when land restrictions for access is relaxed and logical. BLM hunt areas that are available in New Mexico are amazing.

However, that said season dates are highly regulated and the chance even getting close to a creature is rare. The hunt days are typical shorter hours overall' and when access its very poorly widened an BLM area is poorly identified physically by signs.

A private land owner is not required to make any kind of effort to notify hunters of a road restriction and actually stop access to a BLM property. As an example, you can drive forty miles from a main road only to end your hunt due to private property sign restrictions on the other end keeping you from getting onto BLM land.

If this remains a standard operating protocol I must simply state the hunt periods should be extended. Thank you.

From: [Kerrie Romero](#)
To: [Cline, Mason, DGF](#)
Cc: [Darr, Ryan, DGF](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Reminder: Migratory Game Bird Rule Public Meeting starts in 1 hour
Date: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:48:15 AM

Thanks Mason. No need to send me the presentation. Just mark our comment as in support of the Dept. recommendations.

Thanks,
Kerrie C. Romero
Executive Director - New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides
51 Bogan Rd Stanley, NM 87056
(505) 440-5258 (www.nmoutfitters.com)

On Fri, Apr 19, 2024 at 8:41 AM Cline, Mason, DGF <Mason.Cline@dgf.nm.gov> wrote:

Hi Kerrie,

I'm sorry that you were not able to attend the Zoom meeting last night because of technical difficulties. I will count you as an attendee for the meeting. I'm happy to send a copy of the presentation if you'd like (it's the same as what was presented at the Game Commission meeting in March). Also, if you'd like to make any comments on the proposed changes to the migratory game bird rule, please let me know and I will get them on record. Alternatively, feel free to give me a call if there is anything you'd like to discuss about the rule, 505-4708947.

Thanks,

Mason Cline
Bird Program Manager & Migratory Game Bird Biologist
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Mason.Cline@dgf.nm.gov

From: Kerrie Romero <kerriecoxromero@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 7:28 AM
To: Darr, Ryan, DGF <Ryan.Darr@dgf.nm.gov>
Cc: Cline, Mason, DGF <Mason.Cline@dgf.nm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Reminder: Migratory Game Bird Rule Public Meeting starts in 1 hour

No worries! I've actually already seen the presentation. I just officially registered so that I could be counted in the attendance for the public meeting.

Thanks

Kerrie C. Romero

Executive Director - New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides

51 Bogan Rd Stanley, NM 87056

(505) 440-5258 (www.nmoutfitters.com)

On Thu, Apr 18, 2024 at 6:50 PM Darr, Ryan, DGF <Ryan.Darr@dgf.nm.gov> wrote:

Hi Kerrie,

I'm not sure what is going on with Zoom. You can share your comments and get presentation details from Mason Cline (Copied) as needed.

Regards,

-Ryan

Ryan L. Darr

Assistant Chief of Information

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

1 Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507

Cell: 505-239-2770

Ryan.Darr@dgf.nm.gov



CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: kerriecoxromero@gmail.com <kerriecoxromero@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 6:43 PM

To: Darr, Ryan, DGF <Ryan.Darr@dgf.nm.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Reminder: Migratory Game Bird Rule Public Meeting starts in 1 hour

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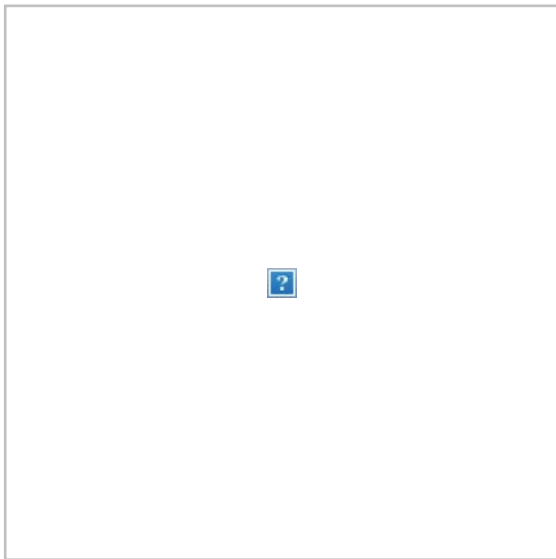
I'm not able to sign onto the zoom for some reason. At first, I was waiting for the host to sign in. Now it won't connect it all.

Kerrie

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2024, at 5:25 PM, Ryan Darr <no-reply@zoom.us> wrote:





Hi Kerrie Romero,

This is a reminder that your webinar will begin in 1 hour:

Migratory Game Bird Rule Public Meeting

Date & Time	Apr 18, 2024 06:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)
Webinar ID	895 0956 4640
Passcode	04182024
Description	NMDGF has scheduled a public meeting to discuss and receive public comment on proposed revisions to the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) on April 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The public may register to attend virtually on this platform. You will receive information on joining the meeting after registration.

Add to: [Google Calendar](#) [Outlook Calendar\(.ICS\)](#) [Yahoo Calendar](#)

You can [cancel](#) your registration at any time.

Please submit any questions to: ryan.darr@dgf.nm.gov

Thank you!

WAYS TO JOIN THIS WEBINAR

- **Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android**

[Join Webinar](#)

If the button above does not work, paste this into your browser:

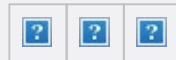
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509564640?tk=Y5Xcjlh7tveBG-bnmjNlrQOmxhQEODTONLN5_Po2L2w.DQYAAAAU1y-Q4BZKWHVwNIU1cFQ4Nm1aZ0FnYkxKdXFnAAA AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=SUFZbmRzeVBLRyszR2FGMTRDMFo1QT09&uuid=WN_wjdKPZt7TI-ofrllE5hCUQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89509564640?tk=Y5Xcjlh7tveBG-bnmjNlrQOmxhQEODTONLN5_Po2L2w.DQYAAAAU1y-Q4BZKWHVwNIU1cFQ4Nm1aZ0FnYkxKdXFnAAA AA&pwd=SUFZbmRzeVBLRyszR2FGMTRDMFo1QT09&uuid=WN_wjdKPZt7TI-ofrllE5hCUQ)

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COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: August 9, 2024

Agenda Number: 6

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Hearing on Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) for the 2024 – 2025 hunting season.

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) based on public comment, the latest information from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), recent survey information, and management goals. Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the USFWS working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. The proposed amendments focus on:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Change certain season dates to be later in the year because of calendar shift
- Based on population survey data, increase sandhill crane permits in MRGV and SW draw hunts by 35 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework
- Central Flyway scaup limit to decrease from 3 to 1 per USFWS regulatory frameworks
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible waterfowl hunting during the regular season
- Open Bernardo Unit D to handicap accessible hunting for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset
- Open Bernardo Ponds Unit for the Light Goose Conservation Order on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the hours of ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

2. Background Information

The migratory game bird rule is amended annually, ensuring compliance with Flyway recommendations and Federal guidelines. In New Mexico, season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the Central and Pacific Flyways and the USFWS. The process for setting migratory bird hunting regulations is described briefly below.

Migratory game bird management in the US is a cooperative effort between state and federal governments. The US and Canada are divided into four regulatory flyways and each has a Flyway Council consisting of representatives from state and provincial wildlife agencies. Flyway Councils are advised by technical committees made up of state and provincial biologists. These technical committees make management

recommendations to the Councils based on population, harvest, and hunter data. After considering technical committee input, the Flyway Councils then recommend migratory bird hunting regulations to the USFWS. The USFWS evaluates these recommendations and presents them to the Service's Regulations Committee for decision. These decisions are then forwarded to the USFWS director and Assistant Secretary of the Interior for approval. Once approved, these proposed annual migratory bird hunting frameworks are published in the Federal Register for public comment. After considering public comment, final recommendations and frameworks are developed and published in the Federal Register. After publication of these final migratory bird hunting frameworks, states can select their hunting seasons.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Department's Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023

4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The Department has posted proposed changes to the migratory game bird rule on its website. Input has been gathered from mail, email, and a public meeting with interested members of the public. A hybrid public meeting was held on April 18th in Albuquerque and via Zoom to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the migratory game bird rule.

Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to repeal and replace 19.31.6 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”

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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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, ~~2023~~2024 - March 31, ~~2024~~2025.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, ~~2023~~2024, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area ~~600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.~~ ~~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 Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tukumcari 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 Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tukumcari 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 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain, 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.
- YZ.** "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, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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) 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) 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) 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) 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:** 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, 9/1/2024]

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 specifically allowed or restricted by rule stated in rule.
- (1) On the Bottomless lakes overflow, and Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall mean from one half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated in rule. For hunting September teal on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs, hunting hours are from one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

(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 except during the light goose conservation order 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, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 20232024-20242025 season, all dates are 20232024 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, 2024	
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. 28 – Jan. 28, 2024	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. 9 – 17		6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 7 – Jan. 10, 2024	south zone: Oct. 28 – Jan. 31, 2024	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, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback
	youth waterfowl days		
American coot	north zone: Oct. 7 – Jan. 10, 2024	south zone: Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2024	15
	gallinule		
snipe	Oct. 7 – Jan. 21, 2024		8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17		10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024		5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 – Jan. 31, 2024		2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024		50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 – Mar. 10, 2024		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. 7 – 8	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, 2024	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback
Seaup	Oct. 19 – Jan. 12, 2024	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 – Jan. 31, 2024	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 23 – Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 – Jan. 31, 2024	5 Canada geese, 10 white fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024	

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	

<u>gallinule</u>	<u>Sept. 14 - Nov. 22</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>snipe</u>	<u>Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2025</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Virginia rail & sora</u>	<u>Sept. 14 - Nov. 22</u>	<u>10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)</u>
<u>dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties</u>	<u>Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>dark goose: special MRGV season</u>	<u>Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>2 (2 per season)</u>
<u>light goose</u>	<u>Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>50 (no possession limit)</u>
<u>light goose conservation order</u>	<u>Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2025</u>	<u>no bag or possession limit</u>
<u>PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.</u>		
<u>Species</u>	<u>season dates</u>	<u>daily bag limit</u>
<u>youth waterfowl days</u>	<u>Oct. 12 - 13</u>	<u>Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback;</u> <u>Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)</u>
<u>Ducks</u>	<u>Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback</u>
<u>Scaup</u>	<u>Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2025</u>	<u>2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)</u>
<u>American coot and gallinule</u>	<u>Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>25 (singly or in the aggregate)</u>
<u>Snipe</u>	<u>Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Virginia rail & sora</u>	<u>Sept. 14 - Nov. 22</u>	<u>25 (singly or in the aggregate)</u>
<u>Goose</u>	<u>north zone: Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	<u>5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese</u>
	<u>south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2025</u>	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: ~~2023~~**2024-2024**~~2025~~ season, all dates are ~~2023~~**2024** unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

<u>CENTRAL FLYWAY</u>		
<u>species</u>	<u>open areas</u>	<u>season dates</u>
<u>mourning and white-winged dove</u>	<u>north</u>	<u>Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2024</u>
	<u>south</u>	<u>Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024</u>
<u>band-tailed pigeon</u>	<u>southwest BPHA</u>	<u>Oct. 1 - 14</u>
	<u>statewide except southwest BPHA</u>	<u>Sept. 1 - 14</u>
<u>sora and Virginia rail</u>	<u>all</u>	<u>Sept. 9 - Dec. 24</u>
<u>snipe</u>	<u>all</u>	<u>Oct. 7 - Jan. 21, 2024</u>
<u>gallinule</u>	<u>all</u>	<u>Sept. 9 - Dec. 24</u>
<u>ducks and coots</u>	<u>north</u>	<u>Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 7 - Jan. 10, 2024</u>
	<u>south</u>	<u>Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2024</u>
<u>goose (light and dark)</u>	<u>all</u>	<u>Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024</u>
<u>goose (dark)</u>	<u>MRGV</u>	<u>Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024</u>
<u>sandhill crane</u>	<u>regular (eastern)</u>	<u>Oct. 14 - Jan. 28, 2024; 3 (6 in possession)</u>
	<u>Estancia valley</u>	<u>Oct. 28 - Dec. 26; 3 (6 in possession)</u>
<u>PACIFIC FLYWAY</u>		

species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 – Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 – Jan. 1, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 – Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 – Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 – 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 – 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 – Jan. 31, 2024
scaup	all	Oct. 19 – Jan. 12, 2024
goose (all)	north	Sept. 23 – Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 – Jan. 31, 2024
	south	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024
snipe	all	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2024
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 – Jan. 31, 2024
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17

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

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2024]

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, 9/1/2024]

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 ~~20232024-20242025~~ are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct. 28 – Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 – Nov. 5	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 11 – 12	SCR-0-102	80
MRGV	Nov. 25 – Nov. 26	SCR-0-103	80
MRGV	Dec. 9 – 10	SCR-0-104	80
MRGV	Jan. 6 – 7, 2024	SCR-0-105	80
MRGV	Jan. 13 – 14, 2024	SCR-0-106	80
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 18	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 28 – Nov. 5	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 6 – 7, 2024	SCR-0-109	70

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

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, 9/1/2024]