

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission (“Commission”) will be hosting a meeting and rule hearing on Thursday June 25, 2026 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Eastern New Mexico University, 1500 S. Avenue K, Portales, NM 88130. Please check the Department’s website for any updates at <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/commission/meeting-agendas/>. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the proposed changes to: 1) the Migratory Game Bird Rule; and 2) the Barbary Sheep, Oryx, and Persian Ibex 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, 2026. The most recent version of the rule expired on March 31, 2026. Proposed changes include:

- 1) Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- 2) Increase sandhill crane permits in SW draw hunts by 18 total, to be distributed among existing hunts.

Barbary Sheep, Oryx, and Persian Ibex Rule

The proposal is to amend the Barbary Sheep, Oryx, and Persian Ibex Rule 19.31.12 NMAC which will become effective April 1, 2027. The most recent version of the rule will expire on March 31, 2027. Proposed changes include:

Require the purchase of a license at least one day prior to hunting. For hunts where published season dates are less than 6 days, hunters will no longer be able to buy a license once the hunt starts.

Persian ibex

- 1) Similar to bighorn sheep, shift ibex license numbers to be “up to,” allowing the Department to adjust draw licenses up or down depending on population surveys. It is possible that the Department may draw zero licenses for certain hunts (for example,
- 2) F-IM, based on population metrics).
 - a. For once-in-a-lifetime hunts, up to 15 licenses
 - b. For archery, up to 40 licenses (over 2 hunt periods)
 - c. For F-IM, up to 40 (with 2 hunt periods)
 - d. For muzzleloader, up to 15
 - e. For youth-only, up to 5
- 3) Adjust season dates where necessary and shifting start dates to maintain hunts beginning on Saturday or adjusting to calendar day starts for consistency.

Oryx

- 1) Increase the number of off-range licenses by 5%, as harvest success rates for off-range oryx are high, suggesting there is more opportunity.
 - a. For youth hunts increase from 24 to 25 licenses
 - b. For regular licenses increase from 96 to 101 licenses
- 2) Require a ranch registration process for OTC private-land oryx licenses, similar to the current registration process used for private land elk hunting in Secondary Management Zones.
- 3) Adjust season dates where necessary. This includes adjustments of hunt dates on military ranges consistent with access and military missions (Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range). And shifting start dates to maintain hunts beginning on Saturday or adjusting to calendar day starts for consistency.
- 4) Shift the 70 years and older hunt based on public comment to allow hunters of any age to apply.
- 5) Clarify the definition of a broken-horned oryx to ensure hunters know they can take an oryx with no horns. Proposed clarifying definition: “Broken-horned oryx” or “BHO” shall mean an oryx of either sex that has at least one horn missing at least 25% of its normal growth, or any oryx which has no horn(s) shall be considered a broken horned oryx.

Barbary sheep

- 1) In collaboration with McGregor Range (Fort Bliss) several changes are recommended:
 - a. Increase the 2 ES hunts (1 military and 1 civilian hunt) from 10 to 20 licenses.
 - b. Increase F-IM hunts by 20 (from 130 to 150) and spreading the licenses out over 1-month hunt windows. Hunters will be able to access the range over all weekends in that month when there is not a military mission occurring.
- 2) Require a ranch registration process for purchase of private land Barbary sheep license.
- 3) Adjust season dates where necessary. Including adjustments of hunt dates on military ranges consistent with access and military missions (Bliss, WSMR). And shift start dates to maintain hunts beginning on Saturday or adjusting to calendar day starts for consistency.
- 4) Split draw hunts in GMUs 29 & 30, maintaining the same number of total licenses but distributing hunters across the GMUs to address overcrowding issues.
 - a. For hunts of 200 licenses, the split would be 75 licenses in GMU 29 and 125 in GMU 30
 - b. For hunts with 75 licenses, the split would be 25 licenses in GMU 29 and 50 in GMU 30

A full text of changes for all rules will be available on the Department's website at: <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/>. Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes for the Migratory Game Bird Rule to DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us, and for the Barbary Sheep, Oryx, and Persion Ibex Rule to DGF-Exotics-Rule@dgf.nm.gov. Individuals may also submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 1:00 p.m. on June 23, 2026. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on June 25, 2026. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearings to be held on June 25, 2026.

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 <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/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 <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/> 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 **wildlifegame and fish.**
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state **wildlifegame** 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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, **20262025** - March 31, **20272026**.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, **20262025**, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

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 **wildlife game and fish.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- O. "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area"** shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.
- P. "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area"** shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.
- Q. "Migratory game bird"** shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, gallinule, snipe, ducks, geese, sora and Virginia rail.
- R. "North zone"** shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway north of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- S. "Pacific flyway"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide.
- T. "Possession limit"** shall mean the number of birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored.
- U. "Quagmire"** shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area south of U.S. 60, west of the San Francisco ditch, and east of the unit 7 drain, excluding the Bernardo youth unit at the southern tip.
- V. "South zone"** shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway south of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- W. "Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area" or "southwest BPHA"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of Interstate 25.
- X. "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "SW"** shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.
- Y. "Unit D"** shall mean only the ephemeral pond or wetland portion of Bernardo WMA contained within the area extending approximately 1,700 feet north of U.S. 60, east of the railroad tracks, and west of the unit 7 drain.
- Z. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs"** shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC Wildlife Management Areas.
[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: 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 Harvest Information Program (HIP) number or a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

- A.** Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.
- B.** For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane and SW sandhill crane: in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.
- C.** For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.
- D.** For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.
- E.** All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.
[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

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

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

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

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

B. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled or managed by the state wildlife 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 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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, Tuesdays and Thursdays 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~~s~~, Wednesday~~s~~ and Saturday~~s~~ 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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: ~~2026~~~~2025~~~~2027~~~~2026~~ season, all dates are ~~2026~~~~2025~~ unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white-winged dove	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)
	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 2425 - Jan. 2122 , 2027 2026	3 (6 in possession)

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

species	season dates	daily bag limit
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal	Sept. 1243 - 2021	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 1044 - Jan. 1344 , 2027 2026	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Oct. 34 - 45	Ducks: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15
	south zone: Oct. 2425 - Oct. 2526	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 1044 - Jan. 1344 , 2027 2026	15
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	
gallinule	Sept. 1243 - Nov. 2024	1
snipe	Oct. 1044 - Jan. 2425 , 2027 2026	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 1243 - Nov. 2021	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2027 2026	no bag or possession limit

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

Species	season dates	daily bag limit
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 10-11 - 11-12	Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback; Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
Scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2027 2026	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 12-13 - Nov. 2024	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 26-27 - Oct. 11-12 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: ~~2026~~~~2025~~ ~~2027~~~~2026~~ season, all dates are ~~2026~~~~2025~~ unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 12-13 - Dec. 26-27
snipe	all	Oct. 10-11 - Jan. 24-25 , 2027 2026
gallinule	all	Sept. 12-13 - Dec. 26-27
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 12-13 - 2024 and Oct. 10-11 - Jan 13-14 , 2027 2026
	south	Sept. 12-13 - 2024 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2027 2026
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 10-11 - Jan. 21-22 , 2027 2026 ; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Nov. 9 - Dec. 29 Nov. 1 - Dec. 30 ; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2027 2026
goose (all)	north	Sept. 26-27 - Oct. 11-12 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026

snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 12 43 - Nov. 20 21

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

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 ~~2026~~2025-~~2027~~2026 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Dec. 12 Nov. 4 – Dec. 15 Nov. 4 and Dec. 17 Nov. 6 – Dec. 20 Nov. 9	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 14 15 - 15 16	SCR-0-102	87
MRGV	Nov. 28 29 - Nov. 29 30	SCR-0-103	87
MRGV	Dec. 12 13 - 13 14	SCR-0-104	87
MRGV	Jan. 23 - 34 , 2027 2026	SCR-0-105	87
MRGV	Jan. 9 10 - 10 11, 2027 2026	SCR-0-106	87
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 21 22	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 31 Nov. 4 - Nov. 89	SCR-0-108	84 75
SW	Jan. 23 - 34 , 2027 2026	SCR-0-109	86 77

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

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

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:

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

Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

NMAC History:

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

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000 - duration expired 3/31/2002
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002 - duration expired 3/31/2003
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2004

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2005
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005 - duration expired 3/31/2006
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2007
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007 - duration expired 3/31/2008
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008 - duration expired 3/31/2009
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2010
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2011
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011 - duration expired 3/31/2012
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012 - duration expired 3/31/2013
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013 - duration expired 3/31/2014
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/31/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2015
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9/1/2015 - duration expired 3/31/2016
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/30/2016 - duration expired 3/31/2017
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2018
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/2/2018 - duration expired 3/31/2019
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/28/2019 - duration expired 3/31/2020
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/20 - duration expired 3/31/2021
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/12/21 - duration expired 3/31/2022
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/22 - duration expired 3/31/2023
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/3/23 - duration expired 3/31/2024
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/15/24 - duration expired 3/31/2025
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/25/25 - duration expired 3/31/2026

NMAC

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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:

(ALD Use) Recent filing date:

New ☒ Amendment ☐ Repeal ☐ Emergency ☐ Renumber ☐

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?

Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received?

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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, 2026. The most recent version of the rule expired on March 31, 2026.

The new rule will include:

- 1) Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- 2) Increase sandhill crane permits in SW draw hunts by 18 total, to be distributed among existing hunts.

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: 2026.07.01 15:52:44 -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 wildlife.
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state wildlife 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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2026, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

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 wildlife.

F. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of wildlife.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: 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 Harvest Information Program (HIP) number, or duck stamp if required.

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

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

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

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

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

[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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 wildlife 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 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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 Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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 Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 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.

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(g) The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2026-2027
season, all dates are 2026 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, 2027	
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. 24 - Jan. 21, 2027	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. 12 - 20	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 10 - Jan. 13, 2027	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2027	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Oct. 3 - 4	Ducks: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15
	south zone: Oct. 24 - Oct. 25	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 10 - Jan. 13, 2027	15
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2027	
gallinule	Sept. 12 - Nov. 20	1
snipe	Oct. 10 - Jan. 24, 2027	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 12 - Nov. 20	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027	2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2027	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. 10 - 11	Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback; Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
Scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2027	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 12 - Nov. 20	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 26 - Oct. 11 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2027	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 2026-2027 season, all dates are 2026 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, 2027
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2027
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 12 - Dec. 26
snipe	all	Oct. 10 - Jan. 24, 2027
gallinule	all	Sept. 12 - Dec. 26
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 12 - 20 and Oct. 10 - Jan 13, 2027
	south	Sept. 12 - 20 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2027
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 10 - Jan. 21, 2027; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Nov. 9 - Dec. 29; 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, 2027
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2027
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2027
goose (all)	north	Sept. 26 - Oct. 11 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2027
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 12 - Nov. 20

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

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 2026-2027 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Dec. 12 – Dec. 15 and Dec. 17 – Dec. 20	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 14 - 15	SCR-0-102	87
MRGV	Nov. 28 - Nov. 29	SCR-0-103	87
MRGV	Dec. 12 - 13	SCR-0-104	87
MRGV	Jan. 2 - 3, 2027	SCR-0-105	87
MRGV	Jan. 9 - 10, 2027	SCR-0-106	87
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 21	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	SCR-0-108	84
SW	Jan. 2 - 3, 2027	SCR-0-109	86

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, 9/1/2026]

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

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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

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19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011 - duration expired 3/31/2012
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012 - duration expired 3/31/2013
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013 - duration expired 3/31/2014
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/31/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2015
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9/1/2015 - duration expired 3/31/2016
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/30/2016 - duration expired 3/31/2017
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2018
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/2/2018 - duration expired 3/31/2019
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/28/2019 - duration expired 3/31/2020
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/20 - duration expired 3/31/2021
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/12/21 - duration expired 3/31/2022
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/22 - duration expired 3/31/2023
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/3/23 - duration expired 3/31/2024
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/15/24 - duration expired 3/31/2025
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/25/25 - duration expired 3/31/2026



**Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird
June 25, 2026 Portales, 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 USFWS frameworks published in Federal Register.**

Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



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 SW draw hunts by 18 total, to be distributed among existing hunts**

Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



Public Comment

- 7 comments received as of June 23, 2026
- Hybrid public meetings held in Albuquerque and Las Cruces on March 11 and 12 (11 people online & 9 in person at both meetings)
- Comments received:
 - Doves in Mesilla Valley, additional hunting requested
 - Reduce waterfowl season length
 - Move EV crane hunt later
 - MRGV dark goose zone, eliminate
 - Youth duck changes, applications for weekends requested
 - Eliminate band-tailed pigeon season

Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2026-27 Central Flyway Seasons

Species	Zone	2025–2026		2026–2027	
		Open	Close	Open	Close
Ducks and coots	North Zone	Oct. 11	Jan. 14	Oct. 10	Jan. 13
	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. 13	Nov. 21	Sep. 12	Nov. 20
Snipe	All Central Flyway	Oct. 11	Jan. 25	Oct. 10	Jan. 24
Youth waterfowl	North Zone	Oct. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 3	Oct. 4
	South Zone	Oct. 25	Oct. 26	Oct. 24	Oct. 25
September teal	All Central Flyway	Sep. 13	Sep. 21	Sep. 12	Sep. 20

Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2026-27 Pacific Flyway Seasons

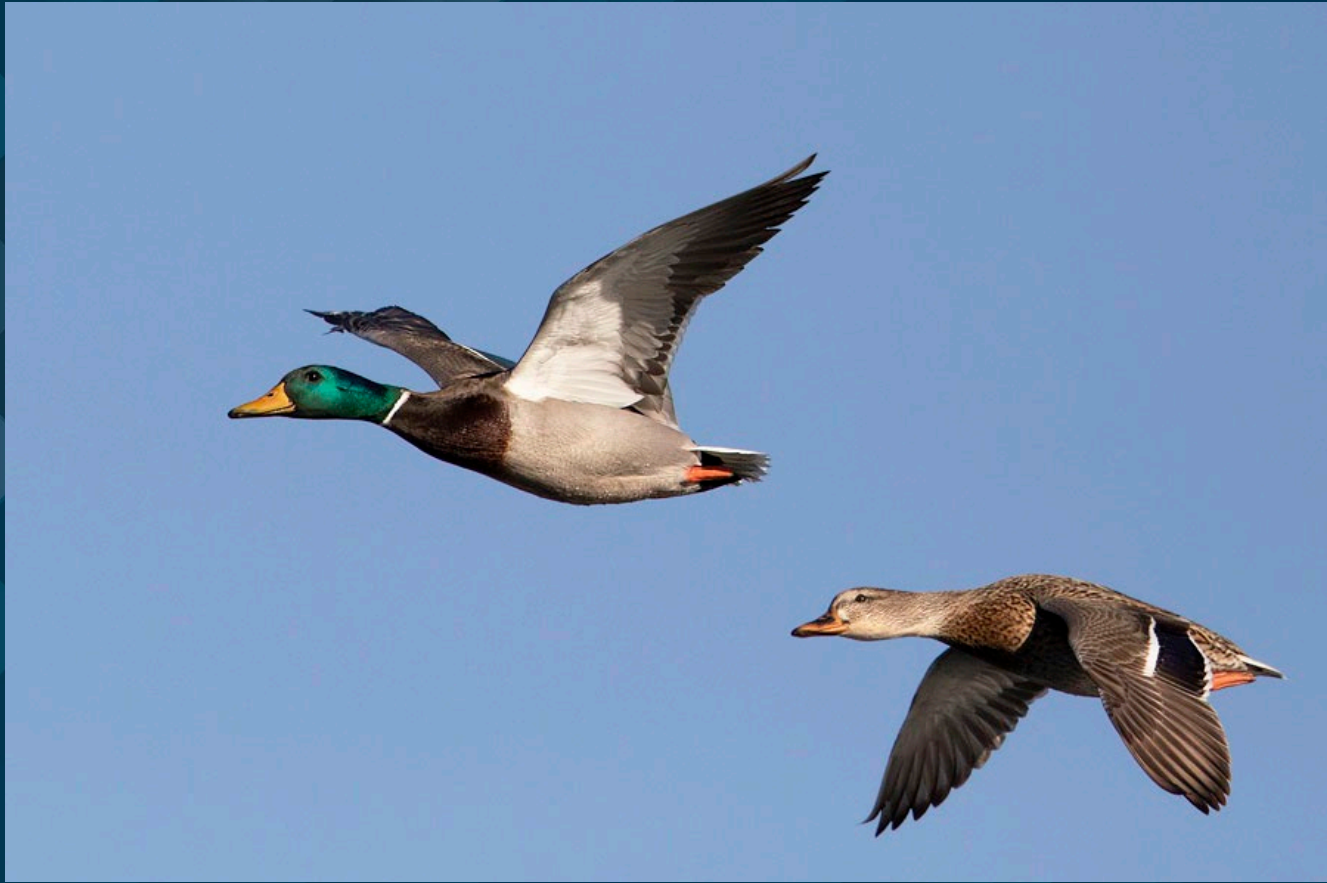
Species	Zone	2025–2026		2026–2027	
		Open	Close	Open	Close
Ducks and coots	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 19	Jan. 31	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
Scaup	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 19	Jan. 12	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
Dark and light geese	North Zone	Sep. 27	Oct. 12	Sep. 26	Oct. 11
	North Zone	Nov. 2	Jan. 31	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South Zone	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Sora and Virginia rail	All Pacific Flyway	Sep. 13	Nov. 21	Sep. 12	Nov. 20
Snipe	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Youth waterfowl	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 11	Oct. 12	Oct. 10	Oct. 11

Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



Questions?



Amend NMAC 19.31.6 Migratory Game Bird

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



PROPOSED MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE SUMMARY, 2026–2027

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 2026–27 season include:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Increase sandhill crane permits in SW draw hunts by 18 total, to be distributed among existing hunts

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. 10	Jan. 13
	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. 26	Oct. 11
	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.

Mallard

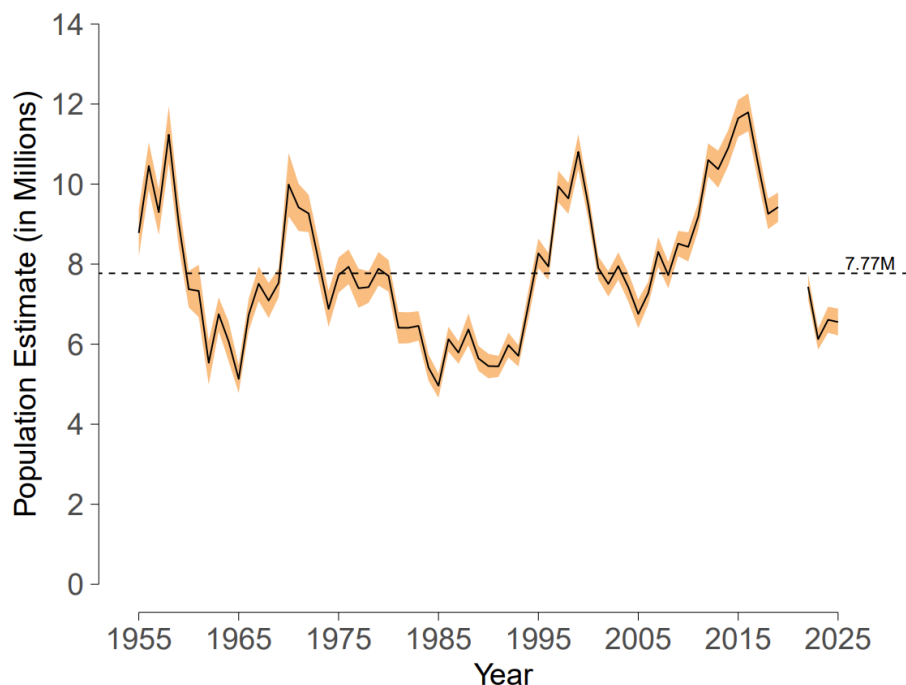


Figure 1. Breeding population estimate, 90% confidence interval, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan goal (dashed line) for mallards in the traditional survey area. Estimated mallard abundance for 2025 was 6.6 ± 0.3 million.

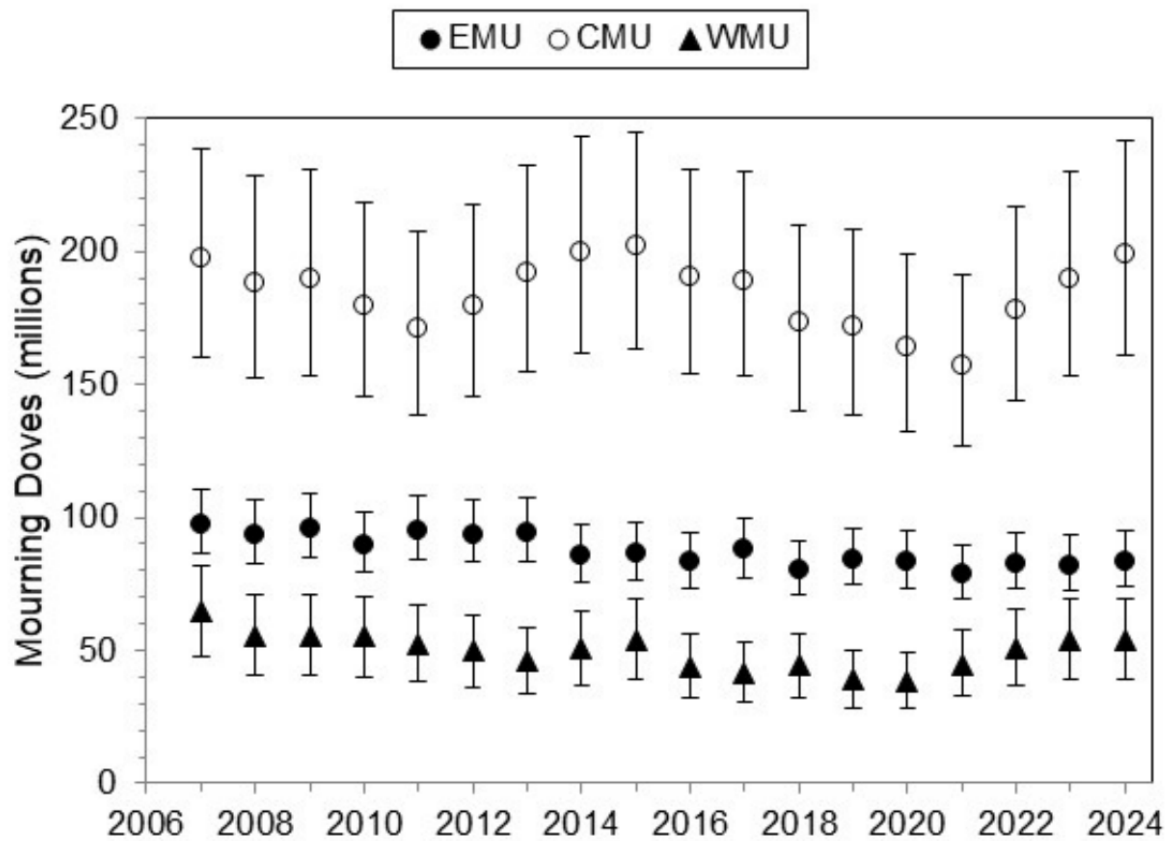


Figure 2. Estimates and 95% credible intervals of mourning dove absolute abundance by management unit and year, 2007–2024. Figure shows abundance estimates for the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico). Estimates are based on band recovery, breeding bird survey indices, and harvest survey data.

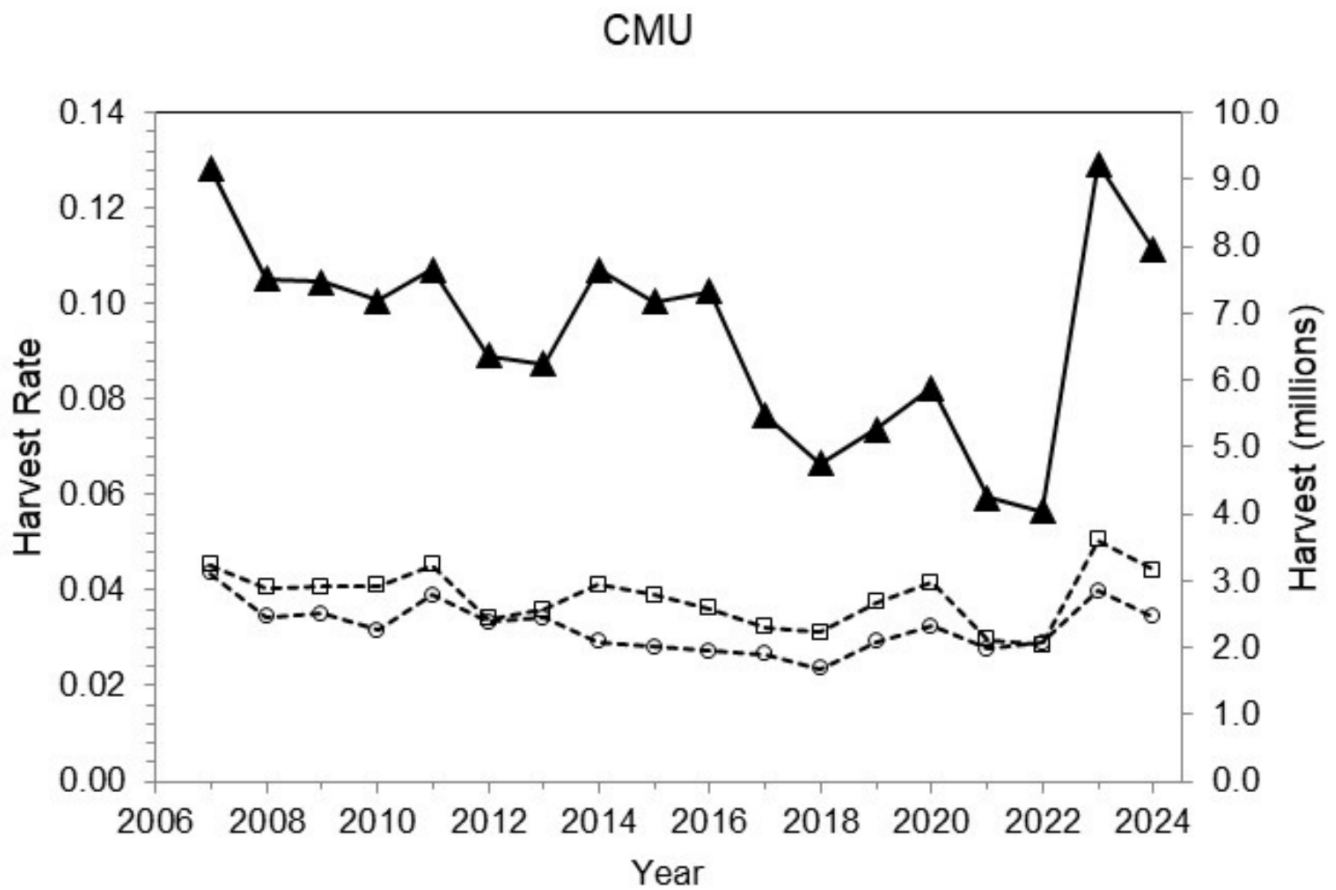


Figure 3. Estimated harvest (triangle) and harvest rates of mourning dove in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2007–2024. Harvest rates are presented separately for hatch-year (square) and after-hatch-year (circle) doves.

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

Year	Colorado ^a	Idaho	Montana	Utah	Wyoming	Total
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
2024	1,421	5,432	7,280	4,824	5,952	24,909
2025	925	7,538	9,154	2,889	4,810	25,316
3-yr Mean	1,362	5,723	8,868	4,448	5,430	25,831
All yr Mean	1,424	6,391	6,073	2,729	3,788	20,404

^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.

^c No survey in 2006

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

From: [Brian Long](#)
To: [Cline, Mason, DGF](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Band-tailed Pigeon
Date: Sunday, June 21, 2026 7:35:55 AM

You don't often get email from brianjaylong@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Hello Mason-

I'm very concerned about the decline of Band-tailed pigeons.

How do I go about removing them from the list of huntable species?

Thanks-

Brian Long

--

Brian Long

26 Lobo Rd.

El Prado, NM 87529

575-770-8399

brianjaylong@gmail.com

[My iNaturalist Bio](#)

From: [Wild Trout](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 8:41:43 AM

You don't often get email from jeff.young.elk@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

Support all changes to waterfowl

Jeff Young
Sandia Park

From: [Milton Romney](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Doce problem in Mesilla Valley
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6:51:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from romneyappraisal@live.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

If these Doce were once migratory birds that leave for the winter they are not leaving now. Over recent years winter dove population in the Mesilla valley particularly with the increase in pecan tree orchards these dove are becoming somewhat of a nuisance. Like pigeons. They are all over, in groups of 40 to 50 sometimes near water looking foraging to find food. Laws don't allow shooting and need to change to manage them. Allie additional hunt times the 4 th week of each winter month and see if these numerous bird populations will reduce.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Brandon Ferguson](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Migratory bird rule changes
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 5:07:48 PM

You don't often get email from brandon.ferguson89@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

I would recommend the MRGV goose season be eliminated, and the goose seasons simply follow flyways and zones for all counties. Numbers of wintering geese in the MRGV seem high and increasing. Thousands of geese winter at the south end of Albuquerque. If it wasn't for the city becoming effectively a refuge, those geese would be MRGV geese. Numbers at Caballo and elephant butte seem to support a more liberal season that should just follow the same season and limits of the rest of the state. Besides, it's these same geese that can be hunted just a little further north, near cochiti, as they migrate south, with no extra restrictions. The MRGV season doesn't make sense anymore

From: [Kerrie Romero](#)
To: [Stump, Richard, DGF](#); [Clemente, Fernando, DGF](#); [Witt, Christopher, DGF](#); [Lopez, Tirzio, DGF](#); gfulfer@gmail.com; [Harwood, Kyle, DGF](#)
Cc: [DGF-Javelina-Rule](#); [DGF-Waterfowl](#); [DGF-Gamebird](#); [DGF-Exotics-Rule](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMCOG's Official Recommendations as they relate to the Javelina, Turkey, Migratory Bird, & Exotics Rules
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026 7:00:10 AM

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

Good Morning Mr. Chairman & Commissioners,

Please accept the following as the official recommendations of the New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides as it relates to the Proposals Under Consideration for Javelina, Turkey, Migratory Bird, and Exotics as of March 19, 2026.

JAVELINA

Support Department's proposed changes as published in the Commission Agenda Meeting Briefing dated March 20, 2026

TURKEY

Generally supportive of the Department's proposed changes as published in the Commission Agenda Meeting Briefing dated March 20, 2026.

NMCOG additionally recommends that the fall turkey hunts, specifically in GMU 6, 10, & 17 become "1 bearded turkey". These hunts are currently either sex. Outfitters in these GMUs have expressed that turkey numbers are noticeably lower compared to previous years. While we recognize that hen harvest is not a large percentage of the overall turkey harvest, eliminating hen harvest is one area where the Dept. has the ability to at least prevent additive mortality.

MIGRATORY BIRD

Generally supportive of the Department's proposed changes as published in the Commission Agenda Meeting Briefing dated March 20, 2026.

NMCOG additionally recommends that the Estancia Valley Sandhill Crane hunts be moved from November 1st to either mid December or January. Over the past several years outfitters report seeing very few to no sandhill cranes in the Estancia Valley during November. However, during late December and January (after the hunt dates have concluded) there are hundreds of cranes in nearly every agricultural field in the Estancia Valley.

EXOTICS

Generally supportive of the Department's proposed changes as published in the Commission Agenda Meeting Briefing dated March 20, 2026.

Oryx

NMCOG Generally supports most of the Department's proposed changes.

We are NOT in favor of increasing the number of off-range Oryx licenses. Outfitters do not agree that the number of public land off-range Oryx is high. We understand that the

success rate has increased but we believe this due to an increase in harvest on private lands. Outfitters hunting BLM and State land are seeing very few oryx and it is not uncommon to hunt several days or more without seeing any oryx. The current number of licenses is already bordering on overcrowding in the field. We recommend that the number of off-range Oryx licenses be reduced or at least remain at current levels.

NMCOG additionally recommends that the Department clarify the definition, in Rule, of Broken Horn Oryx. The current definition is confusing and does not clearly specify that Oryx that are completely missing horn(s) would be interpreted as a Broken Horn Oryx. Additionally, NMCOG would recommend the Department eliminate a portion of the second sentence of the definition. That sentence is very hard to understand for most people and causes confusion in the field. Outfitters have indicated that they have failed to allow hunters to harvest obviously broken horn oryx because they are not certain what it means that the "terminal end would not taper to a point for another 25% growth".

It is important to remember that the reason we have a definition of Broken Horn Oryx is because we want to encourage the harvest of these animals. This definition does the opposite by generating confusion that results in outfitters/hunters passing up the chance to harvest a BHO because they are unsure if it meets the definition. NMCOG has spoken with representatives of the White Sands Missile Range and they are supportive of amending the definition. They agree that the current definition causes confusion amongst hunters.

The current definition reads as follows:

“Broken-horned oryx” or “BHO” shall mean an oryx of either sex that possesses at least one horn missing at least twenty-five percent of its normal growth. This may be determined by comparing the broken horn’s length to the remaining horn or where it is readily apparent the terminal end would not taper to a point for another twenty-five percent of growth.

We would recommend that the definition be amended to read something similar to the below suggestion:

“Broken-horned oryx” or “BHO” shall mean an oryx of either sex that possesses at least one horn missing at least twenty-five percent of its normal growth. This may be determined by comparing the broken horn’s length to the remaining horn or if both horns are obviously missing 25% of normal growth. Also to include an oryx of either sex that is missing one or both horns.

Ibex

NMCOG fully supports the Department's decision to dramatically reduce Ibex licenses.

NMCOG has been vocal in expressing concern about the continued decline of the Ibex population for several years. We also understand that the current mortality issue is not a result of hunter harvest. We would like to see the Department allocate additional resources towards helping restore the Ibex population. We would recommend the Dept. consider a more dedicated predator management emphasis (for both lion and eagle). We have also been notified by outfitters that there are at least 3 water catchment structures in the Florida Mountains (originally installed by the BLM for the benefit of Ibex) and

ALL of them are currently non-functional and in disrepair. Perhaps this would be an area where the Dept. might be able to work with the BLM to restore those drinkers.

Barbary Sheep

Support Department's proposed changes as published in the Commission Agenda Meeting Briefing dated March 20, 2026

Thank you for your consideration!

Kerrie Cox Romero - Executive Director

Cell: 505-440-5258

New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides



From: [Nathaniel Wood](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Waterfowl Game Bird Proposal 2026-2027
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 12:39:42 AM

[You don't often get email from mohawk2007@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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

Good afternoon, I would like to make a comment on this proposal for migratory game birds. I believe that the season should either be reduced in number of days, or that the bag limit should be reduced. I went hunting approximately a dozen and a half times this most recent season and there were very few ducks and geese. The season was very slow, and there are many people who believe it was due to the over extermination of the waterfowl. I know there is a lot more facts and information that comes into play, but I think that having a reduced season or reduced bag limit would be heavily beneficial in the future.

Thank you for all you do!

From: [Peter Romero](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Youth Duck
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 9:50:32 AM

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

I would like to see the Youth Duck season go back to the way it was when youth would apply for certain weekends; they would only give out as many hunts as there were blinds set up. If they weren't all applied for it would become a fire sale for the remaining dates. When it was set up like this you knew if you were taking a youth out that you would have a blind on a pond to be able to hunt instead of taking the chance that too many other people were out there. Thank you very much.

--

Peter Romero
Shop Teacher
Moriarty/Edgewood Middle School
MHS Track and Field Head Coach (Boys and Girls)

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: June 25, 2026

Agenda Number: 11

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Rule Making Hearing on Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) for the 2026 – 2027 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 comments 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 SW draw hunts by 18 total, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Based on public comment and migration timing, move Estancia Valley sandhill crane draw hunt from November to December.

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 public meetings with interested members of the public. Hybrid public meetings were held on March 11th in Albuquerque and March 12th in Las Cruces 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 **wildlifegame and fish.**
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state **wildlifegame** 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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, **20262025** - March 31, **20272026**.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, **20262025**, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

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 **wildlife game and fish.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: 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 Harvest Information Program (HIP) number or a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

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

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

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

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

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

[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

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

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

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

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

B. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled or managed by the state wildlifegame 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~~s~~, Thursday~~s~~ and Sunday~~s~~ 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~~s~~, Wednesday~~s~~ and Saturday~~s~~ 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~~s~~, Wednesday~~s~~ and Saturday~~s~~ 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~~s~~, Wednesday~~s~~ and Saturday~~s~~ 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~~s~~, Tuesday~~s~~ and Thursday~~s~~ 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~~s~~, Wednesday~~s~~ and Saturday~~s~~ 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, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 20262025-20272026 season, all dates are 20262025 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, 2027 2026	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 2425 - Jan. 2122 , 2027 2026	3 (6 in possession)
CENTRAL FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.			
species	season dates		daily bag limit
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal	Sept. 1243 - 2024		6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 1044 - Jan. 1344 , 2027 2026	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Oct. 34 - 45	south zone: Oct. 2425 – Oct. 2526	Ducks: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 1 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15
American coot	north zone: Oct. 1044 - Jan. 1344 , 2027 2026	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	15
gallinule	Sept. 1243 - Nov. 2024		1
snipe	Oct. 1044 - Jan. 2425 , 2027 2026		8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 1243 - Nov. 2024		10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026		5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026		2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026		50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2027 2026		no bag or possession limit
PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.			
Species	season dates		daily bag limit
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 1044 - 1142		Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback;

		Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 3 pintail and 2 canvasback
Scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2027 2026	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 1243 - Nov. 2024	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 2627 - Oct. 1142 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: ~~2026~~2025 ~~2027~~2026 season, all dates are ~~2026~~2025 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 1243 - Dec. 2627
snipe	all	Oct. 1044 - Jan. 2425 , 2027 2026
gallinule	all	Sept. 1243 - Dec. 2627
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 1243 - 2024 and Oct. 1044 - Jan 1344 , 2027 2026
	south	Sept. 1243 - 2024 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2027 2026
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 1044 - Jan. 2122 , 2027 2026; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Nov. 9 - Dec. 29 Nov. 1 - Dec. 30 ; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2027 2026
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2027 2026
goose (all)	north	Sept. 2627 - Oct. 1142 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026

coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2027 2026
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 12 13 - Nov. 20 21

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2026]

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, 9/1/2026]

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 ~~2026~~2025-~~2027~~2026 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Dec. 12 Nov. 4 – Dec. 15 Nov. 4 and Dec. 17 Nov. 6 – Dec. 20 Nov. 9	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 14 15 - 15 16	SCR-0-102	87
MRGV	Nov. 28 29 - Nov. 29 30	SCR-0-103	87
MRGV	Dec. 12 13 - 13 14	SCR-0-104	87
MRGV	Jan. 23 - 34 , 2027 2026	SCR-0-105	87
MRGV	Jan. 9 10 - 10 11, 2027 2026	SCR-0-106	87
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 21 22	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 31 Nov. 4 - Nov. 8 9	SCR-0-108	84 75
SW	Jan. 23 - 34 , 2027 2026	SCR-0-109	86 77

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

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

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9/1/2026]