

# State Regulations

## Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for dove are from 12:00 noon to sunset on opening day of the first segment and from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during the remainder of the season. Shooting hours for rails, snipe, woodcock and waterfowl are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. There is no open season on swans, king and clapper rails, eiders, whistling ducks, mottled ducks, **canvasback ducks** and harlequin ducks.

## Sunday Hunting

Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on Sundays except on privately owned lakes, ponds or impoundments and private land in those counties where Sunday hunting has not been prohibited by local election.

## National Wildlife Refuges

Rules and Regulations for hunting on National Wildlife Refuges may be obtained from:

### Ohio River Islands NWR

3982 Waverly Road • Williamstown, WV 26187  
(304) 375-2923

### Canaan Valley NWR

HC 70, Box 200 • Davis, WV 26260 • (304) 866-3858

Many game birds are banded with leg bands and other markers annually in North America. Please report any such birds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-800-327-BAND (2263) during regular business hours or online at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov).

## Special State Regulations

- All licensed hunters (including lifetime) must possess a valid HIP registration card to hunt any migratory game birds.
- Youth waterfowl hunting season is open to youth ages 15 and younger for taking ducks, geese, coots, gallinules and mergansers. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult age 21 or older. The accompanying adult may not hunt or possess a firearm.
- It is lawful to hunt waterfowl on major waterways, lakes, and reservoirs of the state during the gun season for deer should the waterfowl season be open.
- Only nontoxic shot size T or smaller approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used or be in the hunters possession while hunting waterfowl.
- McClintic Wildlife Management Area
  - Hunting hours for waterfowl within the controlled waterfowl hunting area will be from legal shooting time until 12:00 noon (prevailing time) October 1-11, 2008 (except Sundays).
  - Waterfowl hunting in the controlled hunt area will be by permit only. This area is designated by signs, and includes Ponds 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 36, 39, and 40. Applications for a permit must be received at the Division of Natural Resources, Route 1, Box 484, Point Pleasant, West Virginia 25550, by September 5, 2008.
- Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area
  - Hunting hours for waterfowl will be from legal shooting time until 12:00 noon during the first half of the split waterfowl season October 1-11, 2008 (except Sundays).
  - Waterfowl hunting will be by permit only. Permits will be issued between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. each day of the hunting season at the area headquarters.
- Deed restrictions prohibit all hunting, including waterfowl, at Warden Lake WMA.

## West Virginia Waterfowl Zones

### Zone 1

Entire state except Zone 2.

### Zone 2

Beginning at the West Virginia state line the eastern boundary extends south along U.S. Route 220 through Keyser, WV to the intersection of U.S. Route 50, and follows U.S. Route 50 to the intersection with State Route 93. The boundary follows State Route 93 south to the intersection with State Route 42 and continues south on State Route 42 to Petersburg. At Petersburg, the boundary follows State Routes 28 and 92 south to Minnehaha Springs and then follows State Route 39 west to U.S. Route 219 and follows 219 south to the intersection of Interstate 64. The southern boundary follows I-64 west to the intersection with U.S. Route 60, and follows route 60 west to the intersection of U.S. Route 19. The western boundary follows Route 19 north to the intersection of I-79, and follows I-79 north to the intersection of I-68. The northern boundary follows I-68 east to the Maryland state line.



September 2008 - January 2009 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons					
Species	Area (a)	Open Seasons (All Dates Inclusive)		Daily Bag Limits (b)	Possession Limits (c)
<b>Mourning Dove</b> 3-way Split Season	Statewide	September 1 – October 4		15	30
		October 20 – November 8			
		December 19 – January 3			
<b>Sora and Virginia Rails</b>	Statewide	September 1 – November 8		25	25
<b>Common Snipe</b>	Statewide	September 1 – December 13		8	16
<b>Woodcock</b>	Statewide	October 24 – November 22		3	6
<b>Youth Waterfowl Season</b>	Statewide	September 27		(d)	(d)
<b>Ducks</b> Split season	Zone 1	October 1-11	December 8 – January 25	6(e)	12(e)
	Zone 2	October 1-11	December 1 – January 18		
<b>Gallinules and Coots</b> Split Season	Zone 1	October 1-11	December 8 – January 25	15	30
	Zone 2	October 1-11	December 1 – January 18		
<b>Mergansers</b> Split Season	Zone 1	October 1-11	December 8 – January 25	5(f)	10(f)
	Zone 2	October 1-11	December 1 – January 18		
<b>Canada Goose</b> Split Season	Statewide	September 1-20		5	10
	Zone 1	October 1-25	December 8 – January 31	5	10
	Zone 2	October 1-25	December 8 – January 31		
<b>Snow and Blue Geese</b> Split Season	Zone 1	October 1-25	December 8 – January 31	5	10
	Zone 2	October 1-25	December 8 – January 31		
<b>Brant</b>	Zone 1	December 8 – January 31		3	6
	Zone 2	December 8 – January 31			
<b>Swans, King and Clapper Rails, Eiders, Whistling Ducks, Mottled Ducks, Canvasback and Harlequin Ducks</b>	Statewide	No Open Season			

- See map.
- The daily bag limit for falconry hunting is three (3) migratory game birds in the aggregate and the possession limit is six (6) migratory game birds in the aggregate.
- After first day.
- The bag limit for the youth waterfowl day is the same as the daily limit of the regular duck and goose seasons.
- The daily duck bag limit of six (6) can include only one (1) pintail, four (4) long tailed duck (old squaw), **one (1) scaup**, one (1) black duck, **three (3) wood ducks**, two (2) redheads, four (4) scoters, and four (4) mallards of which only two (2) may be hens. The duck possession limit can include only twice the daily bag limit.
- The daily merganser bag limit can include only two (2) hooded mergansers, with a possession limit of four (4).

# Avian Influenza and H5N1

- Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has not been found in North America.
- Avian influenza (AI) is an infectious disease of birds. Aquatic birds (including waterfowl) are considered the natural reservoir of this virus. Low pathogenic forms of AI are common in wild bird populations.
- Avian influenza virus usually does not cause disease in waterfowl or shorebirds.
- The highly pathogenic form of this disease—H5N1—has caused mortality in domestic poultry and some wild species of ducks, geese, egrets, herons, and gulls in Asia, Africa and Europe.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can humans or hunting dogs catch avian influenza from wild birds?

There are no known cases of humans or dogs getting avian influenza from wild birds.

### How could H5N1 enter North America?

H5N1 is most likely to enter through the movement of infected poultry, illegally imported birds or bird products, or migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

### Should bird hunters be concerned about H5N1?

Hunters should not be overly concerned at the present time, but hunters are encouraged to stay informed on this issue. Hunters should take the following common sense hygiene precautions while hunting.

- Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning your birds.
- Use rubber gloves when cleaning game.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.
- Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
- Cook game meat thoroughly (165°F) to kill disease organisms.

### What is being done to detect Avian Influenza in wild birds?

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is participating in a nationwide monitoring effort by collecting samples for early detection of H5N1 in North America.

### How can hunters help?

Hunters can report die-offs of waterfowl in their area to the nearest WVDNR office or to USDA-WA at 1-866-487-2397. During hunting seasons, biologists may ask hunters for permission to collect samples from harvested waterfowl and other birds. Hunters may also call the USDA-WA number above to provide samples from harvested birds.

### For More Information about Avian Influenza:

National Wildlife Health Center – [www.nwhc.usgs.gov](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov)  
Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study – [www.uga.edu/scwds](http://www.uga.edu/scwds)  
USDA/Wildlife Services (M-F 8-4:30) – 877-463-6497