



R.I. Department of Environmental Management
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
2024-2025 Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits



Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*	October 26 - 27, 2024	Same as regular season.
Youth Hunters ages 12-15 accompanied by a properly licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.		
Canada Goose Early Season	September 1 - 30, 2024	15
Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset for the September season only.		
Canada Goose Regular Season	November 23 - December 1, 2024 and December 7, 2024 - January 26, 2025	2
Permits and reservations are required to hunt the goose fields at the South Shore Management Area** in South Kingstown.		
Canada Goose Late Season	February 1 - 15, 2025	5
CLOSED in Newport County, and portions of Washington County as described in RI Hunting Regulations § 9.11(B)(3)(d). See Map on pages 16 - 17 in the abstract.		
Snow Geese (Inc. Blue Geese)	October 12, 2024 - January 26, 2025	25 No Poss. Limit
Brant	December 28, 2024 - January 26, 2025	1

Possession Limit: Three (3) times the Daily Bag Limit
 (unless otherwise indicated)

*** Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**
October 26 - 27, 2024

For more information about the youth waterfowl mentored hunt, please contact charles.tappero@dem.ri.gov or by calling 401-539-0019.

- Youth hunters must be 12-15 years of age.
- May take ducks, sea ducks, geese and brant following daily bag and possession limits for the regular seasons.
- Youth hunters shall hunt only in the immediate company of a qualified, licensed adult, 21 years of age or older.
- The accompanying adult(s) are prohibited from hunting on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.
- Youth hunters and accompanying adults must have current Rhode Island hunting licenses and HIP permits.
- Accompanying adult(s) must also possess valid state and federal waterfowl stamps.

**** South Shore Management Area**

- Permit available 24 hrs/day through the online licensing system or the DEM, Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Office during normal business hours.
- Reservations are required to hunt the Canada Goose Regular Season.
- Reservation information available from the DEM Fish and Wildlife Great Swamp Field Office or on the website.
- Closed during the Canada Goose Late Season (February 1 - 15, 2025).



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Season	Dates	Daily Bag Limit
Ducks	October 11 - 14, 2024 November 27 - December 1, 2024 December 7, 2024 - January 26, 2025	6*
* The daily bag limit shall include no more than four (4) mallards of which two (2) may be hens, three (3) wood ducks, two (2) redheads, two (2) black ducks, one (1) pintail, one (1) or two (2) scaup (see below), four (4) sea ducks (see below), and two (2) canvasbacks.		
Scaup	October 11 - 14, 2024, November 27 - December 1, 2024, December 7, 2024 - January 6, 2025	1
	January 7 - 26, 2025	2
Sea Ducks	Same As Ducks	4**
** The daily bag limit of sea ducks (4) is part of the daily duck bag limit of 6. The daily bag limit is 4, singly or in aggregate, but not to exceed 3 Scoter, 3 Eider (1 hen), or 3 Long-tailed Ducks.		
Mergansers	Same As Ducks	5
Coots	Same As Ducks	15
Swans	CLOSED	
Harlequin Duck	CLOSED	

Possession Limit: Three (3) times the Daily Bag Limit.

2024-2025 Waterfowl Regulation Highlights

- The final segment of the duck, coot, and merganser season and Regular Canada Goose season will be open December 7 - January 26, 2025.
- Mallard bag limit remains four (4) of which two (2) may be hen mallards.
- The brant season remains 30 days and the bag limit remains one (1).
- The minimum amount of goose decoys required to be on the SSMA premises is 12.
- Shooting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset unless otherwise noted in the regulations.
- Discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied dwelling is prohibited.
- Non-Toxic Shot Requirement: The possession of shells loaded with any shot other than non-toxic shot by any person hunting waterfowl, rails or snipe is prohibited.
- Cripples may be pursued, shot and retrieved from a boat under power in tidal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge; crippled birds must be immediately killed.
- Closed Areas: See regulations for a list and descriptions.

Waterfowl Stamp and HIP Permit

- All waterfowl hunters sixteen (16) years of age and older are required by law to purchase a Rhode Island Waterfowl Stamp as well as a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.
- State waterfowl stamp certifications issued through the web-based online licensing system need not be signed.
- Physical State Waterfowl Stamps obtained from the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Federal Ducks Stamps must be signed by the hunter across the face of the stamp and carried at all times when hunting.
- All migratory bird hunters, regardless of age must possess a current Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit.

* **Note:** This card is meant to provide a convenient summary of the dates and regulations but is not comprehensive. See the complete regulations for more information.

Division of Law Enforcement
 24hr Violation Line: (401) 222-3070