

Proposed Changes in Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

Public Hearings will be held on these proposed changes on April 18. See www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/files/ICN2006.html for a list of places to attend. The final rule will go to the Natural Resource Commission on August 10th at Kent Park in Johnson County.

1) Season dates have been adjusted for the 2006 calendar (See table of season dates). These are potentially the season dates that could be selected if Iowa is allowed the same season choices as last year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) establishes waterfowl season frameworks annually. These frameworks are announced in early August after all waterfowl breeding population surveys are completed. It is too soon to tell what those surveys will reveal about waterfowl populations, but water and habitat conditions look good in Canada and appear to be all right in the eastern Dakotas. If these conditions persist, the Service and the Mississippi Flyway Council may allow a liberal 60-day season again this year.

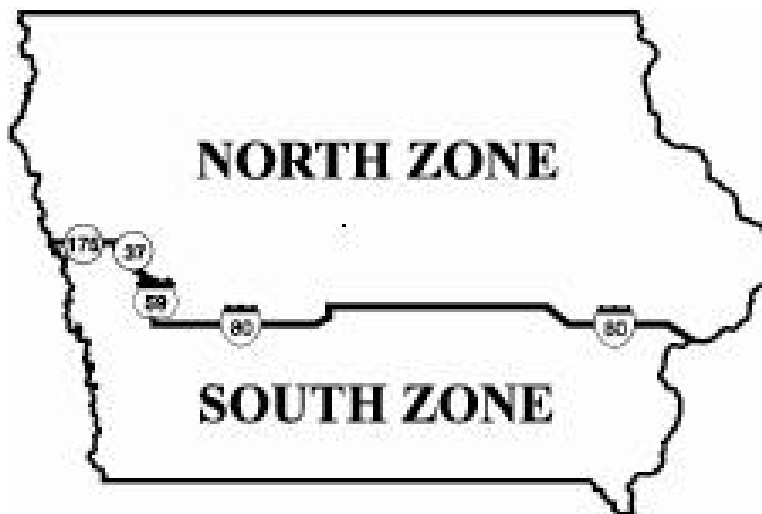
2) The USFWS allows states to change hunting zone boundaries once every 5 years. (The zones Iowa has used for the last ten years are shown in the map below.)

States are permitted 3 options:

- a) No Zone (statewide seasons) with the season divided into as many as 3 segments.
- b) 2 Zones with the season divided into 2 segments in each zone (Iowa's current system). Season dates in the 2 zones may be the same or different.
- c) 3 Zones with a continuous season in each zone.

The DNR's Wildlife Bureau is surveying Iowa waterfowl hunters for their opinions on these options at this time. The results of that survey will also be considered when deciding how to structure the duck season for the next 5 years.

Iowa's Duck Hunting Zones: 2000 - 2005



3) We are proposing to eliminate the Canada Goose Closed Hunting Zone around Red Rock Lake. The closed area was established 15 years ago to increase goose populations in the Red Rock area. The geese, however, have moved into the city of Des Moines and are using it as a refuge. This proposed change will allow hunters to hunt Canada geese on the Red Rock area again.

PROPOSED
2006-2007 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

	NORTH DUCK ZONE²	SOUTH DUCK ZONE²
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots except Canvasbacks	Sept. 23 – 27 Oct. 14 – Dec. 7	Sept. 23 – 27 Oct. 21 – Dec. 14
Canvasbacks	Oct. 21 – Nov. 19	Oct. 28 – Nov. 26
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	Oct. 7 – 8	Oct. 7 – 8
	NORTH GOOSE ZONE³	SOUTH GOOSE ZONE³
Canada geese and Brant	Sept. 30 – Oct. 8 Oct. 14 – Dec. 3 Dec. 23 – Jan. 1, 2007	Sept. 30 – Oct. 8 Oct. 21 – Dec. 3 Dec. 23 – Jan. 8, 2007
SPECIAL SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASONS		
Canada geese	Sept. 1 – 15 Only in designated zones around Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City	
Canada geese	Sept. 9 – 10 Statewide	
STATEWIDE		
White-fronted geese	Sept. 30 – Dec. 10	
Light Geese (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)	Sept. 30, 2006 - Jan. 14, 2007	
Light Geese Conservation Order (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)	Jan. 15 - April 15, 2007 Additional regulations apply	
Woodcock	Oct. 7 - Nov. 20	
Snipe	Sept. 2 - Nov. 26	
Rail (Sora and Virginia)	Sept. 2 - Nov. 10	

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset for all species except woodcock, which is sunrise to sunset.

Daily Bag Limits:

Ducks: Daily limit is 6, including no more than 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 may be female), 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, and 2 scaup.

Mergansers: Daily limit is 5, including no more than 1 hooded merganser.

Coots: Daily limit is 15.

Geese: Daily limit is 2 Canada geese, 2 white-fronted geese, 2 brant, and 20 snow geese, except during the special September Canada goose season in the Des Moines and Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Zones when the bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

Woodcock: Daily limit is 3.

Snipe: Daily limit is 8.

Rail (Sora and Virginia): Daily limit is 12.

Possession Limits:

Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit for all the above species, except for light geese for which there is no possession limit.

² Duck Hunting Zones – The North Duck Hunting Zone is that part of Iowa north of a line beginning on the Nebraska-Iowa border at State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, southeast to U.S. Highway 59, south to I-80 and along I-80 to the Iowa-Illinois border. The South Duck Hunting Zone is the remainder of the state.

³ Goose Hunting Zones – The North Goose Hunting Zone is that part of Iowa north of U.S. Highway 20. The South Goose Hunting Zone is the remainder of the state.