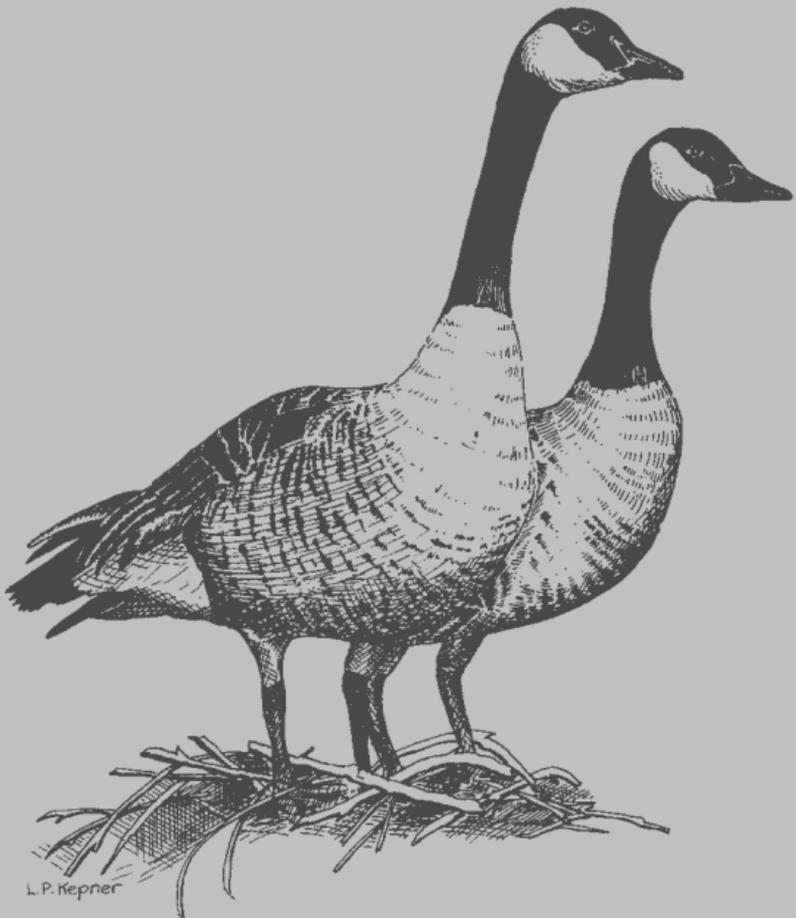


Arizona Waterfowl and Snipe Regulations 2006-2007



Arizona Game and Fish Department

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Synopsis of federal regulations applicable to migratory bird hunting

WEAPON - Migratory game birds may be taken only with a 10 gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding not more than three shells. Birds may also be taken by falconry or by bow and arrow, or crossbow.

MOTOR-VEHICLE RESTRICTION - No person may take migratory game birds from any motor-driven vehicle, including aircraft. Special regulations govern handicapped hunters.

WATERCRAFT RESTRICTIONS - Waterfowl may be hunted from a watercraft (except a sinkbox) including those propelled by motor, sail and wind, or both when the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress therefrom has ceased. The watercraft may be drifting as a result of current or wind action on the hull, beached or moored, resting at anchor, or may be propelled by paddle, oars or pole. A watercraft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled waterfowl but no shooting is permitted while the watercraft is underway. It is illegal to drive or rally game birds toward hunters by use of any motor-driven conveyance or sail boat.

DECOYS, CALLS AND BAITING - Migratory birds may not be taken with the aid of live decoys, recorded bird calls or electronically amplified bird calls. It is illegal to take birds by the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. Baiting includes placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

RETRIEVAL AND TAGGING - All birds downed shall be retrieved if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field. Crippled birds must be killed immediately. Any birds given to or left with another person must be tagged by the hunter with a tag showing the hunter's name, address, the number and species of birds, and the dates they were killed. Packages in which migratory game birds are shipped must show the names of the sender and receiver, and the number and species of birds contained in the parcel.

BAG LIMIT - No person may, during any one day take more than one daily bag limit or possess more than one daily bag limit in the field, or while returning to the car, hunting camp or home. One feathered wing must be left attached to all migratory game birds until they reach their final destination.

Changes from last year

The opening and closing dates have changed from last year for most seasons. Last year, Arizona had a 60 day restricted canvasback season in each zone. This year, hunters can shoot 1 canvasback per day whenever the regular duck season is open in each zone. The special goose season in Units 1 and 27 now has an opening date of Nov. 15.

Monuments and military areas

The Grand Canyon-Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert, Ironwood Forest, and Agua Fria National Monuments are open to hunting. The Navajo Army Depot in Unit 6B is open to hunting only to properly licensed members of the Arizona National Guard and Navajo Army Depot civilian personnel holding a valid Navajo Army Depot hunting permit. Season dates and regulations must be obtained from the Arizona National Guard. The Fort Huachuca Army Garrison in Unit 35A is open to hunting only to properly licensed military and Fort Huachuca civilian personnel holding a valid Fort Huachuca post hunting permit. Season dates and special regulations must be obtained from Fort Huachuca.

The Florence Military Reservation (training areas B and D: the areas north and south of Cottonwood Canyon Road) in Unit 37B is subject to short term closures due to military operations, including live fire operations, and requires coordination with the Florence Military Reservation for hunting access. For specific closure dates or any other access concerns, contact the Florence Military Reservation at 602-267-2062. A map of the Florence Military Reservation is located on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site, azgfd.gov (type Florence Military Reservation in the search box).

One feathered wing

Sportsmen should note that one feathered wing (or head for sandhill crane only) must be left attached to all migratory game birds until they reach their final destination.

Nontoxic shot

Possession of lead shot, including plated lead, is prohibited while hunting waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, and common moorhens). NONTOXIC shot is required for all waterfowl hunting in Arizona. NONTOXIC shot includes steel, bismuth, tungsten/iron, tungsten/polymer,

tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten matrix shot, tungsten/bronze, tungsten/tin/bismuth, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, and tungsten-tin-iron. A complete listing of approved nontoxic shot can be found at www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm

Banded birds

Hunters can report recovery of banded birds by calling 1-800-327-BAND (2263).

Wildlife areas, county parks

For Restrictions for taking wildlife on Maricopa County Parks and Information on Status of Wildlife Areas (R12-4-802), see page 70 and pages 76-77 of the Fall 2006-2007 Arizona Hunting Regulations.

Waterfowl hunting information

Detailed waterfowl hunting information is available by visiting the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at azgfd.gov under the "Wildlife and Fish" link.

Waterfowl Hunters – Arizona Bald Eagles Need Your Help

Annually on Dec. 1, 22 closures are enacted statewide to protect breeding bald eagles. These closures restrict human activity within the nest area so the resident bald eagles will have the opportunity to successfully breed. We are asking for your assistance to avoid these areas while you are hunting waterfowl, as your presence and the noise from discharging your firearm may cause a disturbance to the breeding pair. The bald eagles are laying eggs during the later part of the waterfowl season and are very sensitive to human activity.

The bald eagle is protected by the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and various other state and federal laws.

You can find the full list of Bald Eagle Breeding Area Closures at http://www.azgfd.gov/artman/publish/printer_426.shtml, or by contacting the local U.S. Forest Service Ranger District office or Arizona Game and Fish Regional Office where you plan to hunt.

Commission Order 22: Common Snipe

GENERAL COMMON SNIPE			
<i>Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.</i>			
Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Oct. 20, 2006 - Jan. 28, 2007	(1)	Desert Zone: those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Yavapai County and Units 10 and 12B through 45	Common snipe
Oct. 6, 2006 - Jan. 14, 2007	(2)	Mountain Zone: Units 1-5, 7, 9, 12A and those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County	Common snipe

LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE: Shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow as prescribed in R12-4-304 and by falconry.

LICENSE REQUIRED: Any valid hunting license plus a valid Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp. Falconers must be licensed pursuant to R12-4-422 or exempted pursuant to R12-4-407.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

BAG LIMIT: Eight (8) per day.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Sixteen (16) common snipe after opening day, no more than eight (8) of which may have been taken in any one day.

FALCONRY BAG LIMIT: Three (3) per day. Note: The aggregate falconry bag limit of all migratory game birds is three (3), comprised of any combination of migratory game bird species for which a general season, that includes falconry as a legal method of take, or a falconry-only season is open. Falconers should consult Commission Orders 19, 20, 21, and 22 for season dates and open areas. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the firearms bag limit.

FALCONRY POSSESSION LIMIT: Six (6) in the aggregate of all migratory game birds in season (Commission Orders 19 through 22) after opening day, of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.

HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP): As required by A.R.S. 17-333.03 and R12-4-203, Snipe hunters age 16 and older shall have in their possession a valid Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp or printed privilege which will validate their license for the federal Harvest Information Program. The Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp may be obtained, for a cost of \$3.00 on or after July 1, from any Arizona Game and Fish Department office or wherever hunting licenses are sold.

Common Snipe Notes:

1. Open areas include the Imperial, Cibola, Buenos Aires and Havasu National Wildlife Refuges EXCEPT for posted portions which shall be closed to all hunting. A fee may be required for hunting on National Wildlife Refuges, see refuge regulations.
2. Ashurst Lake in Unit 5B is closed to common snipe hunting.

Commission Order 21: Waterfowl

GENERAL WATERFOWL			
<i>Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.</i>			
Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Oct 20, 2006 - Jan 28, 2007	(1,2,3,4,5)	Desert Zone: those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Yavapai County and Units 10 and 12B through 45	Ducks including mergansers, coots, and common moorhens (gallinules)
Oct 20, 2006 - Jan 28, 2007	(1,2,3,4,5)	Desert Zone: those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Yavapai County and Units 10 and 12B through 45 EXCEPT Units 22, 23 and 27	White geese (snow, blue and Ross') and dark geese (Canada and white-fronted)
Oct 6, 2006 - Jan 14, 2007	(1,2,3,4)	Mountain Zone: Units 1-5, 7, 7M, 9, 12A and those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County	Ducks including mergansers, coots, and common moorhens (gallinules)
Oct 6, 2006 - Jan 14, 2007	(3,4)	Mountain Zone: Units 2-5, 7, 7M, 9, 12A and those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County	White geese (snow, blue and Ross') and dark geese (Canada and white-fronted)
Nov. 15, 2006 - Jan 14, 2007	(3,4)	Special Goose Seasons: Units 1 and 27	White geese (snow, blue and Ross') and dark geese (Canada and white-fronted)
Nov 15, 2006 - Jan 28, 2007	(3,4)	Special Goose Seasons: Units 22 and 23	White geese (snow, blue and Ross') and dark geese (Canada and white-fronted)
<p>LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE: Shotgun, crossbow, bow and arrow or falconry as prescribed in R12-4-304.</p> <p>LICENSE REQUIRED: Any valid hunting license plus a valid Arizona Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (i.e. federal Duck Stamp). Falconers must be licensed pursuant to R12-4-422 or exempted pursuant to R12-4-407.</p> <p>SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.</p> <p>BAG LIMIT: The daily bag limit of ducks, including mergansers: Seven (7) per day not to include more than: two (2) redheads; one (1) pintail; one (1) canvasback; seven (7) mallards, no more than two (2) of which may be female or Mexican-like ducks; and three (3) scaup. Coots and common moorhens (gallinules): Twenty-five (25) per day, singly or in the aggregate. Geese: Four (4) white geese (snow, including blue and Ross' geese) per day and three (3) dark geese (Canada and white-fronted) per day.</p> <p>FALCONRY BAG LIMIT: See Falconry-Only section.</p> <p>POSSESSION LIMIT: The possession limit of ducks including mergansers: Fourteen (14) after opening day, only seven (7) of which may be taken any one day, but no more than:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> four (4) redheads two (2) pintails two (2) canvasbacks. four (4) female mallards or Mexican-like ducks six (6) scaup <p>Coots and common moorhens (gallinules): Twenty-five (25) singly or in the aggregate.</p> <p>Geese: Eight (8) white geese (snow, including blue and Ross' geese) and six (6) dark geese (Canada and white-fronted).</p> <p>FALCONRY POSSESSION LIMIT: See Falconry-Only section.</p>			
JUNIORS-ONLY WATERFOWL			
<i>Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.</i>			
Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Feb 3, 2007	(1,3,4,5)	Desert Zone: Those portions of Units 6 and 8 lying within Yavapai County and Units 10 and 12B through 45	Ducks including mergansers, coots, and common moorhens (gallinules). Including white geese now, blue and Ross') and dark geese (Canada and white-fronted)
Sep 30, 2006	(2,3,4)	Mountain Zone: Units 1-5, 7, 7M, 9, 12A, and those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County	Ducks including mergansers, coots, and common moorhens (gallinules). Including white geese snow, blue and Ross') and dark geese (Canada and white-fronted)
<p>LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE: Shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow as prescribed in R12-4-304.</p> <p>LICENSE REQUIRED: Any valid hunting license required for participating age 14 and 15; participants age 16 or older must have a valid Arizona Waterfowl Stamp and and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (i.e. federal Duck Stamp); participants under 14 need not be licensed if accompanied by a licensed adult as prescribed in A.R.S. 17-335.</p> <p>ELIGIBLE HUNTERS: Pursuant to R12-4-318 persons are eligible to participate throughout the calendar year of their 17th birthday.</p> <p>SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.</p> <p>BAG LIMIT: The daily bag limit of ducks, including mergansers: Seven (7) per day not to include more than: two (2) redheads; one (1) pintail; one (1) canvasback; seven (7) mallards, no more than two (2) of which may be female or Mexican-like ducks; and three (3) scaup. Coots and common moorhens (gallinules): Twenty-five (25) per day, singly or in the aggregate. Geese: Four (4) white geese (snow, including blue and Ross' geese) per day and three (3) dark geese (Canada and white-fronted) per day.</p>			
FALCONRY-ONLY WATERFOWL			
<i>Open Areas do not include any area closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-301, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.</i>			
Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Jan 29 - Feb 2, 2007	(4,6)	Desert Zone: Those portions of Units 6 and 8 lying within Yavapai County and Units 10 and 12B through 45	Ducks including mergansers, coots, and common moorhens (gallinules)
Oct 1 - Oct 5, 2006	(2,4,6)	Mountain Zone: Units 1-5, 7, 7M, 9, 12A and those portions of Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County	Ducks including mergansers, coots, and common moorhens (gallinules)
<p>LAWFUL TAKING DEVICE: Falconry as prescribed in R12-4-318 and R12-4-101.</p> <p>LICENSE REQUIRED: Any valid hunting license plus valid Arizona Waterfowl Stamp and Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (i.e. federal Duck Stamp). Falconers must be licensed pursuant to R12-4-422 or exempted pursuant to R12-4-407.</p> <p>HAWKING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.</p> <p>BAG LIMIT: Three (3) per day. Note: The aggregate falconry bag limit of all migratory game birds is three (3), comprised of any combination of migratory game bird species for which a general season, that includes falconry as a legal method of take, or a falconry-only season is open. Falconers should consult Commission Orders 19, 20, 21, and 22 for season dates and open areas. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the firearms bag limit.</p> <p>POSSESSION LIMIT: Six (6) in the aggregate of all migratory game birds in season (Commission Orders 19 through 22) after opening day, of which no more than three (3) may be taken in any one day.</p>			

Waterfowl Notes:

- Open areas include the Imperial, Cibola, Buenos Aires and Havasu National Wildlife Refuges EXCEPT for posted portions which shall be closed to all hunting, a fee may be required for hunting on National Wildlife Refuges, see refuge regulations.
- Ashurst Lake in Management Unit 5B is closed to all waterfowl hunting.
- All areas within Arizona are designated nontoxic shot zones. The use or possession of lead shot while waterfowl hunting is prohibited. Waterfowl includes ducks, geese, brant, swans, coots and moorhens. Lead shot includes plated lead shot. Steel, bismuth, tungsten/iron, tungsten/polymer, tungsten-nickel-iron, and tungsten matrix shot are approved as nontoxic shot. A complete listing of approved nontoxic shot can be found at www.fws.gov/migratory-birds/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm.
- Persons 16 years of age or older must have in their possession a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp when taking ducks and geese, and a valid, signed Arizona Waterfowl Stamp attached to their hunting license or printed privileges on their license when taking ducks and geese. This stamp or privilege will automatically register the holder for the federal Harvest Information Program for the taking of ducks and geese. Persons 16 years of age and older must have in their possession a valid Arizona Migratory Bird Stamp or privilege when taking coots and common moorhens pursuant to A.R.S. 17-333.03 and R12-4-203.
- Hunting is not permitted in Unit 26M in the following described area: those private lands lying just north of the Town of Cave Creek in Sections 10, 11, 12, 14, and 15 of Township 6 North, Range 3 East.
- Falconry hunting will not be permitted on National Wildlife Refuges.