

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Following is a summary of state and federal rules that apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of all migratory game birds in New York. For more complete information, consult the *2011-2012 New York State Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide* or the specific federal (50 CFR Part 20) and state (6 NYCRR Part 2.30) regulations. You can read both of these online by using the following link: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28175.html>.

DEFINITIONS

For this regulations brochure, migratory game birds are wild ducks, geese, brant, coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock and snipe. Migratory waterfowl are wild ducks, geese, brant and coot.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

All migratory game bird hunters must carry a valid New York State small game hunting license, except for persons not required to have a hunting license. All migratory game bird hunters in New York must also register annually with New York's Harvest Information Program (HIP) and carry proof of compliance whenever going afield. To register, call toll-free 1-888-4ASKHIP (1-888-427-5447) or visit the website: www.NY-HIP.com. You will be given a confirmation number to record on the back of your hunting license as proof of participation in HIP. HIP registration is valid from July 1 through June 30 annually.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP

Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp ("duck stamp") signed in ink across the face. Stamps do not have to be attached to your license. Duck stamps are not required to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock or snipe. Duck stamps are not required of minors 12 through 15 years of age hunting migratory waterfowl in New York State.

Federal duck stamps are sold at most post offices and many sporting goods stores and cost \$15.00 each. They may also be ordered by calling 1-800-852-4897 or visiting the website www.duckstamp.com. There is an additional shipping and handling fee for phone or Internet orders.

HUNTING HOURS

Woodcock may be taken from sunrise to sunset. All other migratory game birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset in all hunting zones.

NON-TOXIC SHOT REQUIREMENT

Non-toxic shot is required for hunting any migratory game bird, except woodcock, everywhere in New York State. Possession or use of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is strictly prohibited when hunting waterfowl, snipe, rails or gallinules.

DUCK HUNTING BLINDS

NYS Navigation Law Section 33-b requires that duck blinds placed in the waters of lakes within New York State be prominently marked with the owner's full name and address. All duck blinds placed in lakes must be removed no later than March 15 annually.

PROHIBITIONS ON METHODS OF TAKE

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. **This does not apply to the taking of snow geese during March 11 through April 15.**
- From a sink box (a low-floating device, with a depression that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land vehicle, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may, with a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land vehicle. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sail furled, and its progress has ceased. Motorboats and sailboats under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power except in the Special Sea Duck Area described in the Hunting Seasons Table.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using recorded migratory bird calls or sounds or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls. **This does not apply to the taking of snow geese in any area or zone when all other waterfowl hunting seasons are closed.**
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized vehicle or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation. Migratory game birds may be taken on or over standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown or grains found scattered solely as a result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting.

WANTON WASTE/POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and retain it in his/her actual custody. Wounded birds taken into possession shall be killed immediately and included in the daily bag limit.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No more than one daily bag or aggregate daily bag limit of migratory game birds may be possessed or transported, tagged or untagged, at or between the place of taking and:

- His or her automobile or principal means of land transportation
- His or her personal abode or temporary place of lodging
- Migratory bird preservation facility
- Post office or common-carrier facility

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the bird from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported.

POSSESSION, TAGGING, SHIPMENT AND IMPORTATION

The possession limit is the maximum number of migratory game birds that any person may possess in total in his/her automobile or principal means of land transportation, personal abode, or in his/her name at any migratory bird preservation facility, post office or common-carrier facility. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit for all waterfowl species except snow geese.

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than personal abode) or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, storage (including temporary storage) or taxidermy services, unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- Hunter's name, address and signature
- Total number of birds involved, by species
- Dates such birds were killed

For more information on regulations pertaining to possession, tagging, shipment and importation of legally killed migratory game birds, consult the specific federal and state regulations cited above.

CAUTION/DUAL VIOLATION

More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges and state wildlife management areas (WMA's) open to public hunting. Violation of New York State migratory bird hunting regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about migratory game bird hunting in New York: consult the Fish and Wildlife Law, official DEC regulations or the *2011-2012 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide*; contact the nearest DEC regional office or environmental conservation officer; or go to "Hunting" on the subject index of DEC's website: www.dec.ny.gov

For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at:

- Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, Albany, NY 12207
518-431-4341
- 70 E. Sunrise Highway, Suite 419, Valley Stream, NY 11581
516-825-3950
- 405 N. French Road, Suite 120B, Amherst, NY 14228
716-691-3635

2011-2012 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS (regulations in effect September 2011 to April 2012)

Species	Western Zone	Northeastern Zone	Lake Champlain Zone	Southeastern Zone	Long Island Zone
Ducks, Coot and Mergansers	Oct 22 - Dec 5 Dec 26 - Jan 9	Oct 1 - Oct 10 Oct 22 - Dec 10	Oct 12 - Oct 16 Oct 29 - Dec 22	Oct 8 - Oct 16 Nov 5 - Dec 25	Nov 24 - Nov 27 Dec 5 - Jan 29
Sea Ducks*	same as above	same as above	same as above	same as above	Oct 15 - Jan 29*
Youth Days †	Oct 8 & Oct 9	Sept 17 & Sept 18	Sept 24 & Sept 25	Sept 17 & Sept 18	Nov 12 & Nov 13
Canada Geese	see other panel	see other panel	see other panel	see other panel	see other panel
Snow Geese	Oct 22 - Dec 10 Dec 26 - Jan 9 Jan 29 - Apr 15	Oct 1 - Dec 31 Feb 25 - Apr 15	Oct 1 - Dec 29	Oct 1 - Jan 5 Mar 1 - Apr 15	Nov 24 - Mar 9
Brant	Oct 2 - Nov 20	Oct 1 - Nov 19	Oct 12 - Nov 30	Oct 8 - Nov 26	Nov 24 - Nov 27 Dec 15 - Jan 29
Woodcock	Oct 1 - Nov 14	Oct 1 - Nov 14	Oct 1 - Nov 14	Oct 1 - Nov 14	Oct 1 - Nov 14
Snipe, Rails and Gallinules	Sept 1 - Nov 9	Sept 1 - Nov 9	Sept 1 - Nov 9	Sept 1 - Nov 9	closed

* During Oct 15 through Jan 29, the taking of **sea ducks** (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks - formerly called oldsquaw) is permitted within the **Special Sea Duck Area**, defined as the coastal waters of New York State lying in Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Great Peconic Bay and associated bays eastward from a line running between Miamogogue Point in the Town of Riverhead to Red Cedar Point in the Town of Southampton, and any ocean waters of New York State lying south of Long Island. In these and other coastal waters of the Long Island Zone, a special limit of 7 sea ducks is allowed (see side panel). In all other areas of the state, these species may be taken only during the open season for taking other ducks, and they are included in the daily limit for ducks.

† These are additional days **for Junior Hunters only (age 12 through 15)** to hunt ducks, coot, mergansers, Canada geese and brant (see box below).

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT DAYS

Young hunters (12 through 15 years of age) possessing a Junior Hunting License may hunt ducks, coot, mergansers, Canada geese and brant on 2 special days in each zone (see table above). Daily bag limits for ducks are the maximum allowed during the regular season (see other panel) and 2/day for geese. Junior hunters must be accompanied by a licensed (including current HIP registration and duck stamp) adult hunter, but the adult may not shoot any birds unless the respective regular season is open. Note: A 2010-11 hunting license is needed to hunt on any Youth Day in September.

WATERFOWL HUNTING ZONES

Western Zone - That area west of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate Route 81 and then south along Interstate Route 81 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary.

Northeastern Zone - That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

Lake Champlain Zone - That area east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keeseville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

Southeastern Zone - That area east of Interstate 81 that is south of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Route 153, east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, and northwest of Interstate Route 95 in Westchester County.

Long Island Zone - That area consisting of Nassau and Suffolk counties and their tidal waters and that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95.



BAG LIMITS

The **daily bag limit** is the maximum number of birds of each species that any person may take or possess in the field during any one day. The **possession limit** is twice the daily bag limit for all migratory game birds except snow geese.

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Ducks*	6	12
Sea ducks**	7	14
Coot	15	30
Canada geese †	see other panel	see other panel
Snow geese †	25	no limit
Brant	2	4
Woodcock	3	6
Snipe, rails, gallinules	8	16

* The daily limit of 6 ducks includes all mergansers and may include no harlequin ducks and no more than 4 mallards (2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 pintail, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 4 scoters or 2 hooded mergansers.

** The daily limit of 7 sea ducks (scoters, eiders and long-tailed ducks - formerly called oldsquaw) is in addition to the regular duck bag in coastal waters of the Long Island Zone only. No more than 4 scoters may be included in the daily bag of sea ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks are part of the regular duck bag limit.

† Cackling geese and white-fronted geese may be taken as part of the Canada geese daily bag and possession limits. Snow geese and Ross' geese may be taken as part of the snow geese limits.

HEALTH ADVISORY

Mergansers are the most heavily contaminated waterfowl species and should not be eaten. Eat no more than two meals per month of other wild waterfowl; you should skin them and remove all fat before cooking and discard stuffing after cooking. Wood ducks and Canada geese are less contaminated than other wild waterfowl species, and diving ducks are more contaminated than dabbling ducks.

REPORT BANDED BIRDS!

Please report all banded birds you encounter to www.reportband.gov or 1-800-327-BAND. You will receive a certificate of appreciation with information about the bird.



FUTURE WATERFOWL SEASONS

DEC invites waterfowl hunters to suggest season dates for the 2012 waterfowl hunting seasons. DEC uses waterfowl hunter task forces to help set seasons in most zones, and they would welcome your input. For more information about the task force process, go to: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/40737.html.

Have a safe and enjoyable season!

HIGHLIGHTS for 2011-2012

✓ **Zone Boundaries** – the zone boundary in Washington County and small portions of Saratoga and Warren counties was changed. Be sure to check the new descriptions if you hunt in that area.

✓ **Canada Goose Seasons** – in western Long Island, the September goose season was closed to allow extension of the regular season to March 10. The daily limit in that area is 8 geese per day.

✓ **Snow Geese** – electronic calls may be used for snow geese only when all other waterfowl seasons are closed. **Hunters in upstate New York may also take snow geese during March 11 through April 15.** Go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/50514.html for details.

✓ **Other Migratory Game Birds** – the woodcock season has been extended to 45 days (October 1 through November 14).

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE REQUIREMENT

From November 1 through May 1, all persons on board a boat less than 21 feet in length (including row boats, canoes and kayaks) must wear a securely fastened personal flotation device when the boat is underway. Other safety tips: Never shoot while standing in a boat. If you get wet, dry off quickly and get help. Hunt with a partner—the “buddy system” works!

PURCHASE A HABITAT/ACCESS STAMP

Legislation enacted in 2002 created a new Habitat/Access Stamp to support DEC’s efforts to conserve habitat and increase public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation. This stamp is not required to hunt, fish or trap, nor must you purchase a sporting license to buy a Habitat/Access Stamp; it is available to anyone for \$5.00 wherever hunting licenses are sold. This year’s stamp features a spotted turtle. Conservationists have declared 2011 the “Year of the Turtle” to raise public awareness of the precarious state of turtle populations around the world. Nearly half of all living turtle species are considered to be threatened with extinction.

Gregory F. Messier



2011-2012 New York Habitat/Access Stamp

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New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
www.dec.ny.gov

Migratory Game Bird

Hunting Seasons and Regulations

2011-2012



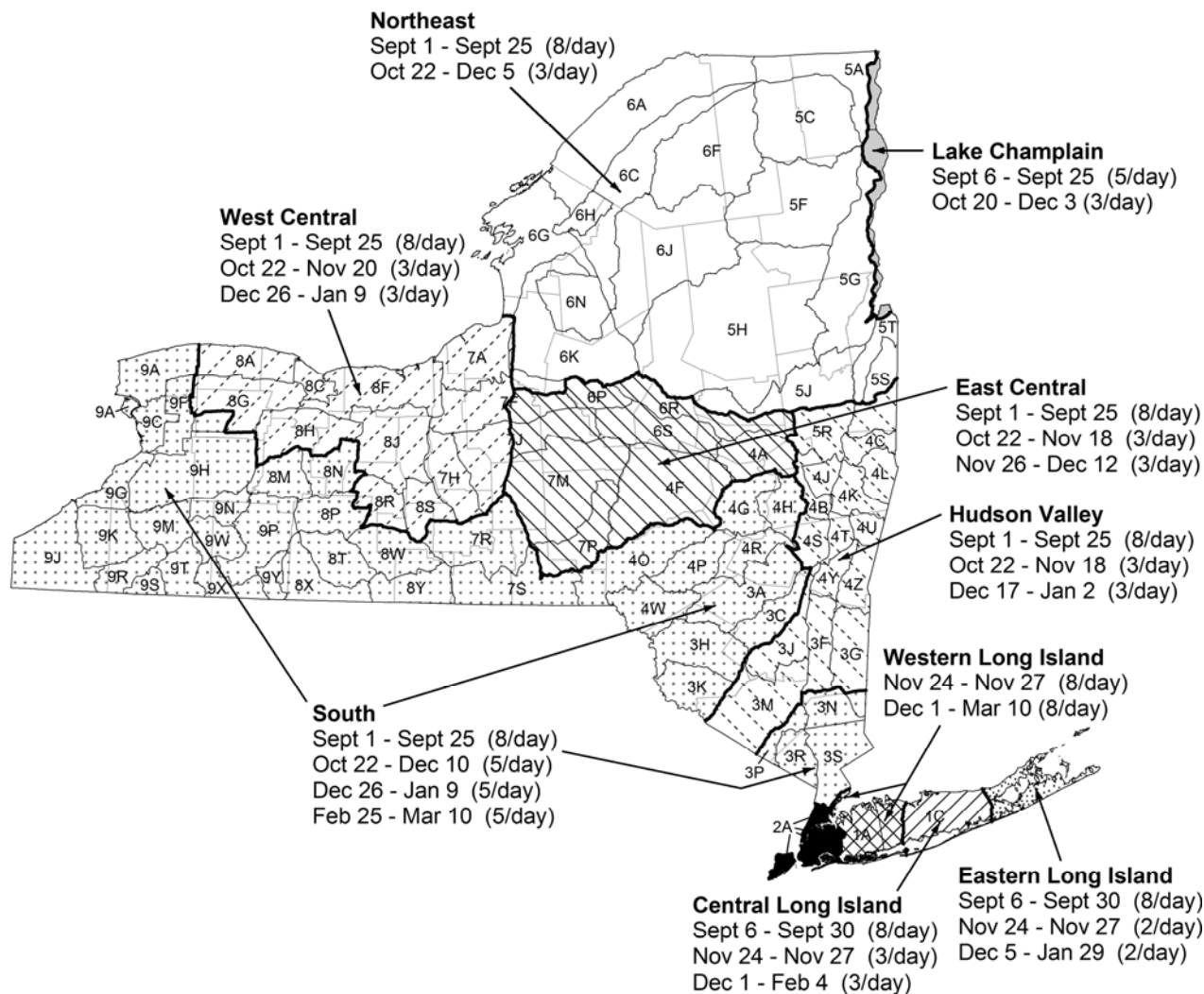
2011 - 2012 Federal Duck Stamp
White-fronted Geese by James Hautman

**All migratory bird hunters must register
with New York’s
Harvest Information Program...
...call 1-888-427-5447, or
visit www.NY-HIP.com today!**

2011-2012 CANADA GOOSE HUNTING AREAS AND SEASONS

Note: "Goose Hunting Areas" (see map below) have replaced waterfowl hunting zones for setting Canada goose hunting seasons. Season dates are shown below (with the daily bag limit in parentheses).

Remember: To hunt during September 2011, you must have a 2010-2011 (last year's) hunting license, a new (2011) HIP confirmation number and a new (2011) federal duck stamp.



NY STATE GOOSE HUNTING AREAS

See road boundaries at: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28510.html

(1) The **Lake Champlain Goose Hunting Area** is the same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see other page).

(2) The **Northeast Goose Hunting Area** is the same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone (see other page).

(3) The **West Central Goose Hunting Area** consists of the following WMUs: 7A, 7H, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8H, 8J, 8R and 8S. The West Central Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 6K lying west of a continuous line extending along the north shore of the Salmon River from US Route 11 to Interstate Route 81, then south along Route 81 to Route 49; those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying west of Route 81; and that part of WMU 8G lying north and east of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along Route 98 to Route 20.

(4) The **East Central Goose Hunting Area** consists of the following WMUs: 4A, 4F, 6P, 6R, 6S, 7M and 7P. The East Central Goose Hunting Area also includes those parts of WMUs 7F and 7J lying south of Route 31 and east of Route 81.

(5) The **Hudson Valley Goose Hunting Area** consists of the following WMUs: 3F, 3J, 3M, 4B, 4C, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4Y, 4Z, 5R; that part of WMU 5S lying south of a continuous line extending east along Route 29 to Route 22, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, then east along Route 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary; and that part of WMU 3G lying in Dutchess County.

(6) The **South Goose Hunting Area** consists of the following WMUs: 3A, 3C, 3H, 3K, 3N, 3P, 3R, 4G, 4H, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4W, 7R, 7S, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9A, 9C, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X and 9Y. The South Goose Hunting Area also includes: that part of WMU 8G lying south and west of a continuous line extending along the New York State Thruway from Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road (near the Erie-Genesee county line) to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to State Route 20; that part of WMU 3G lying in Putnam County; and that part of WMU 3S lying north of Route I-95.

(7) The **Western Long Island Goose Hunting Area** is that area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk counties lying west of a line extending from the New York-Connecticut boundary due south to the northernmost end of the Sunken Meadow State Parkway, south along the Sunken Meadow State Parkway, the Sagtikos State Parkway, and the Robert Moses State Parkway to its southernmost end, then due south to international waters.

(8) The **Central Long Island Goose Hunting Area** is that area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting Areas, as defined above and below.

(9) The **Eastern Long Island Goose Hunting Area** is that area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, south on Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25, west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue, south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue), south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road), south on CR 31 to Oak Street, south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane, then west on Stevens Lane, then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89), then due south to international waters.

Special Late Canada Goose Hunting Season

The Special Late Canada Goose Hunting Area (not shown above) is that portion of the Central Long Island Goose Hunting Area lying north of State Route 25A and west of a continuous line extending northward from State Route 25A along Randall Road (near Shoreham) to North Country Road, then east to Sound Road, then north to Long Island Sound and then due north to the New York-Connecticut boundary.

Season dates are February 5 through February 15, with a daily bag limit of 5 geese.