

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department announces the following summary of regulations & changes for the 2026-2027 Small Game, Furbearer and Waterfowl Seasons.

Species	Opens	Closes	Daily Limit	Poss. Limit	
Crows (Fall)	Aug. 15	Nov. 02	There is no limit on crows		
Crows (Spring)	Mar. 13	Apr. 25			
Early Canada Geese (Missouri River Zone)	Aug. 15	Sept. 07	15	45	
Early Canada Geese (Western Zone)	Aug. 15	Sept. 15			
Early Canada Geese (Eastern Zone)	Aug. 15	Sept. 22			
Doves	Sept. 01	Nov. 29	15	45	
Hungarian Partridge	Sept. 12	Jan. 03	3	12	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sept. 12	Jan. 03	3	12	
Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 12	Jan. 03	3	12	
Tree Squirrels	Sept. 12	Feb. 28	4	12	
Sage Grouse	Season closed				
Snipe	Sept. 12	Nov. 29	8	24	
Woodcock	Sept. 19	Nov. 02	3	9	
Sandhill Cranes (Unit 1)	Sept. 19	Nov. 15	3	9	
Sandhill Cranes (Unit 2)	Sept. 19	Nov. 15	2	6	
Tundra Swan	Oct. 03	Jan. 03	Season limit: one swan - must be tagged		
2,200 licenses issued by lottery (deadline - Aug. 19)					
Pinnated Grouse (prairie chicken)	Season closed				
Male Pheasant (youth season)	Oct. 03	Oct. 04	3	12	
Male Pheasant (regular season)	Oct. 10	Jan. 03			
Mountain Lion (Zone 1 Early) (hunting)	Sept. 4	Nov. 22	One per season - restricted		
Mountain Lion (Zone 1 Late) (hunting)	Nov. 23	Mar. 31	One per season - restricted		
Mountain Lion (Zone 2) (hunting)	Sept. 4	Mar. 31	One per season - restricted		
Fisher and American Marten (trapping or cable devices)	Nov. 23	Nov. 29	One per season - restricted		
River Otter (trapping or cable devices)	Nov. 23	Dec. 13	One per season - restricted		
Beaver and Raccoon (hunting, trapping or underwater cable devices)	Year-round				
Beaver and Raccoon (cable devices on land) (type and placement restricted from Mar. 15 - May 10)	Nov. 23	May 10	There is no limit on other furbearers		
Weasel (trapping)	Oct. 24	Mar. 15			
Muskrat and Mink (trapping)	Oct. 24	May 10	One per season - restricted		
Weasel (cable devices)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15			
Muskrat and Mink (cable devices)	Nov. 23	May 10	One per season - restricted		
Weasel (hunting)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15			
Muskrat and Mink (hunting)	Nov. 23	May 10	One per season - restricted		
Muskrat and Mink (restricted trapping and cable device season)	Mar. 16	May 10			
Muskrat and Mink (protective covering over foot sets)	May 01	May 10			
Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote, and Badger (day hunting or trapping)	Year-round				
Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote, and Badger (cable devices)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15	One per season - restricted		
Red Fox, Gray Fox, and Coyote (night hunting)	Nov. 23	May 31			
Bobcat (Zone 1) (hunting or trapping)	Nov. 07	Mar. 15	One per season - restricted		
Bobcat (Zone 1) (cable devices and dogs)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15			
Bobcat (Zone 2)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15	One per season - restricted		
(hunting, trapping, cable devices, dogs)					
Special Veteran and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Season	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	* Limits same except: no bonus BMT may be taken		
Special Youth Waterfowl Season	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	* Limits same except: no bonus BMT may be taken		
Ducks including Mergansers	Low Plains Unit - Sept. 26 thru Dec. 08		6 (see restrictions below)		18
Coots	High Plains Unit - Sept. 26 thru Dec. 08 & Dec. 12 thru Jan. 03				
White-fronted Geese	Sept. 26	Dec. 08	3	9	
Canada Geese (Missouri River Zone)	Sept. 26	Jan. 01	5	15	
Canada Geese (Western Zone)	Sept. 26	Dec. 24	8	24	
Canada Geese (Eastern Zone)	Sept. 26	Dec. 19	8	24	
Light Geese	Sept. 26	Jan. 03	50	No Limit	

DUCKS AND MERGANSERS: SPECIES/SEX RESTRICTIONS

The daily bag limit of 6 ducks including mergansers may include no more than 5 mallards of which only 2 may be female mallards, 1 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 3 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks. * In addition to the daily bag limit of ducks listed above, an additional 2 blue-winged teal may be taken from Sept. 26 - Oct. 04. The possession limit for duck including mergansers shall be three times the daily bag limit.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR

- Starting Nov. 29, shooting hours for geese will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset to the end of the respective goose season.
- Resident waterfowl hunters will be able to pursue waterfowl during the first 9 days of the season (Sept. 26 - Oct. 4). Nonresidents will be permitted to hunt waterfowl starting Oct. 5, 2026.
- Ruffed grouse can now be taken statewide.
- Fisher can now be trapped statewide.
- American marten will be allowed for take in 2026. The season will mirror the fisher season.
- River Otter harvest will change to a three-week season.
- Nonresidents are not allowed to hunt on Department wildlife management areas or on PLOTS areas from Oct. 10-16. Exception: nonresidents hunting on PLOTS land that they own.

A complete 2026-2027 Small Game, Furbearer and Waterfowl proclamation is available from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-5099 (701) 328-6300.



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