

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		
Early Canada Geese (Western Zone)	Aug. 15	Sept. 15	15	45
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		
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. 16 - May 10)	Nov. 23	May 10		
Weasel (trapping)	Oct. 24	Mar. 15		
Muskrat and Mink (trapping)	Oct. 24	May 10		
Weasel (cable devices)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15		
Muskrat and Mink (cable devices)	Nov. 23	May 10		
Weasel (hunting)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15		
Muskrat and Mink (hunting)	Nov. 23	May 10		
Muskrat and Mink (restricted trapping and cable devices season)	Mar. 16	May 10		
Muskrat and Mink (protective covering over float sets)	May 01	May 10		
Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote,				





There is no limit on other furbearers

CLIP AND SAVE

and Badger (day hunting or trapping) year-round

Red Fox, Gray Fox, Coyote, and Badger (cable devices)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15
Red Fox, Gray Fox, and Coyote (night hunting)	Nov. 23	May 31
Bobcat (Zone 1) (hunting or trapping)	Nov. 07	Mar. 15
Bobcat (Zone 1) (cable devices and dogs)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15
Bobcat (Zone 2) (hunting, trapping, cable devices, dogs)	Nov. 23	Mar. 15



One per season - restricted

Special Veteran and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Season	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	* Limits same except no bonus BWT may be taken	
Special Youth Waterfowl Season	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	* Limits same except no bonus BWT may be taken	

Ducks including Mergansers	Low Plains Unit - Sept. 26 thru Dec. 06 High Plains Unit - Sept. 26 thru Dec. 06 & Dec. 12 thru Jan. 03	6 (see restrictions below)	18
Coots		15	45

White-Fronted Geese	Sept. 26	Dec. 06	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 58501-5095 (701) 328-6300.