

# SMALL GAME AND FURBEARER HUNTING

## FIRST READ GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION ON PAGE 11

### PROTECTED WILDLIFE

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon, monk parakeet and snapping turtle. Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this Guide. Hunters taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.

### GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

- You may not use a rifle or handgun to hunt pheasant or turkey.
- See page 11 for additional information.

### FROGS

Frogs may be taken statewide, from sunrise to sunset, from June 15 to September 30. There is no limit. A fishing or small game license is required to take frogs with a spear, club, hook or by hand. A small game license is required to take frogs with a gun or bow.

### FALCONRY SEASONS

Falconry is the sport of hunting small game species with trained raptors. A person must possess a valid Falconry License and a small game license to hunt with raptors.

A licensed falconer may take small game species from October 1 through

March 31 in any area of the state open to hunting these species EXCEPT:

- Waterfowl may also be taken during a specific period outside the firearms hunting season but within the Federal waterfowl season framework.
- Common crow may only be taken during the open firearms season.

Note: A licensed falconer may take both male and female pheasants anywhere in the State when hunting under a Falconry License.

For more information on Falconry contact the DEC Special Licenses Unit at (518) 402-8985.

### SELLING FURBEARERS

- Furbearers may be bought and sold with or without pelt attached to the carcass.
- Bobcat pelts, or carcasses with pelt attached, shall be possessed or transported only in the manner described in PELT SEALING on page 33.

### WILDLIFE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE STATE

Legally imported game may be possessed and transported at any time.

Game birds and animals (except migratory game birds) legally taken outside the State may be imported in any manner, except by parcel post, in the number which may be legally exported from the place of taking as follows:

- During their respective open seasons in this State by the taker without license or permit.

- During the closed season in this State, provided the taker first obtains an importation license from a DEC regional office.

### USE OF HUNTING DOGS

Dogs may be used to hunt small game, except:

- You may not use dogs to hunt wild turkey in the spring.
- In the Northern Zone, if you are hunting with a dog, or accompanied by a dog, you may not possess a rifle larger than .22 caliber rim-fire or possess a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot unless you are engaged in coyote hunting with a dog and have received a permit from an Environmental Conservation Officer; any legal firearm may be used for this type of hunting.

Training—You may train dogs on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat from July 1 through April 15. You may train dogs on other small game only from August 15 through April 15.

You may train dogs at any time on lands you own, lease, or have written permission to use, if you are not training on wild game. You may only use blank ammunition when training dogs, except during an open season.

Control—Hunting dogs should remain under control of the hunter or trainer, especially on lands inhabited by deer. Do not shoot at dogs; report stray dogs to a local Environmental Conservation Officer or your local animal control officer.

**FURBEARER HUNTING:** See page 19.

## DON'T SHOOT SPRUCE GROUSE!

Spruce grouse and ruffed grouse are related, but there are important differences. In New York the spruce grouse is a threatened species and not legal to hunt. There now may be fewer than 300 spruce grouse in the state.

Spruce grouse exist only in isolated patches of lowland conifer forest in the Adirondacks. Although ruffed grouse occur in upland hardwoods statewide, during fall and winter they may be found in spruce grouse habitat. Small game hunters in the Adirondack region must learn to distinguish the species so that spruce grouse are not shot by mistake.

Male spruce grouse are very distinctive -- mostly black with white markings and a red comb over each eye--but females are similar in color to ruffed grouse. By knowing the differences, hunters can avoid accidentally shooting spruce grouse. Loss of a female spruce grouse could be serious for a small local population!

For more information on spruce grouse (including more details on how to distinguish them from ruffed grouse), contact the DEC wildlife staff in Region 5 or 6 (see page 3).

### **Spruce Grouse**

*tail feathers  
have tan tips  
with no black  
band.*



### **Ruffed Grouse**

*have black  
tail band near  
tip of tail.*





## VARYING HARE HUNTING

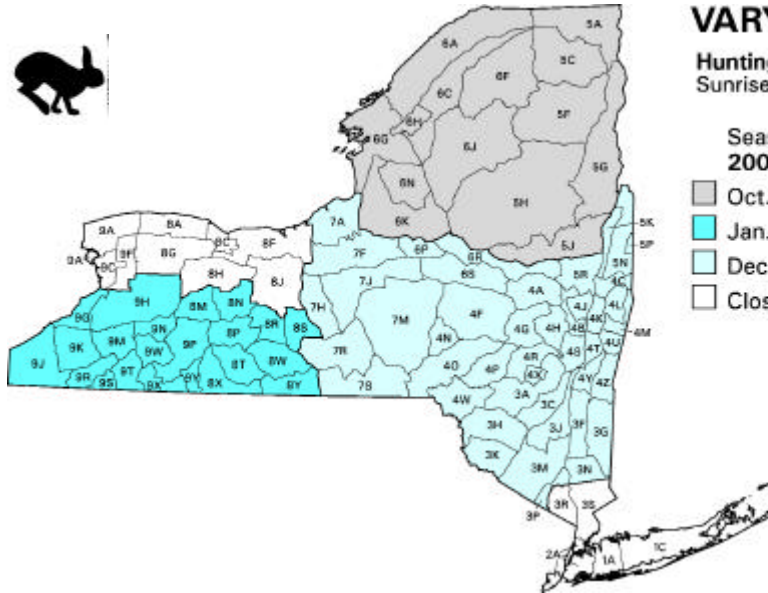
**Hunting Hours**  
Sunrise to Sunset

**Season Dates**  
2005/2006

**Daily Bag Limits**

- Oct. 1 - Mar. 19
- Jan. 1 - Jan. 31
- Dec. 12 - Feb. 28
- Closed

- 6
- 2
- 2
- 



**Assume Control**  
from Trigger to Target...and Beyond

- Assume every gun is loaded.
- Control the muzzle - Point in a safe direction
- Finger off the trigger 'til ready to shoot
- Be sure of your target and beyond
- Wear Hunter Orange

## BLACK, GRAY & FOX SQUIRREL HUNTING



**Hunting Hours**  
Sunrise to Sunset

Last year's license is required when hunting prior to October 1.

Red Squirrels are unprotected, and may be hunted at any time without limit.

**Season Dates**  
2005/2006

**Daily Bag Limits**

- Sept. 1 - Feb. 28
- Nov. 1 - Feb. 28

- 6
- 6



Junior Hunters can hunt only with adults. Be there for them.

## COTTONTAIL RABBIT HUNTING



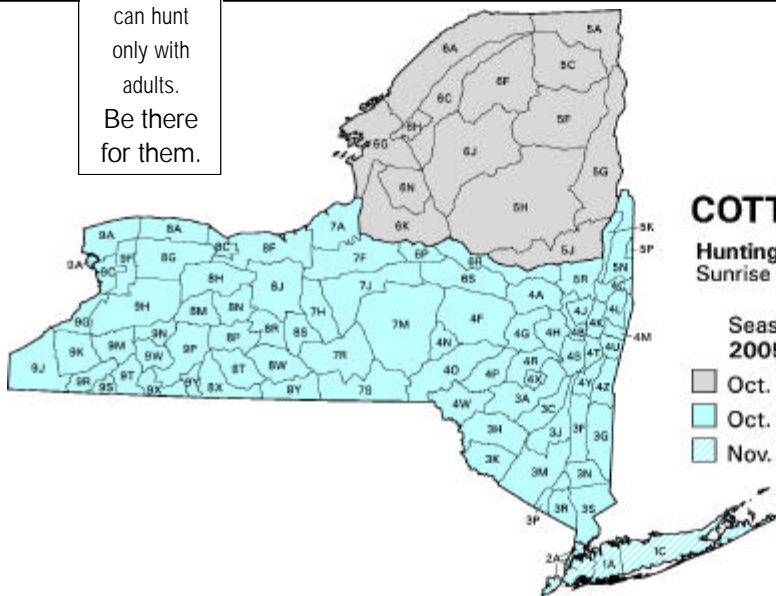
**Hunting Hours**  
Sunrise to Sunset

**Season Dates**  
2005/2006

**Daily Bag Limits**

- Oct. 1 - Mar. 19
- Oct. 1 - Feb. 28
- Nov. 1 - Feb. 28

- 6
- 6
- 6



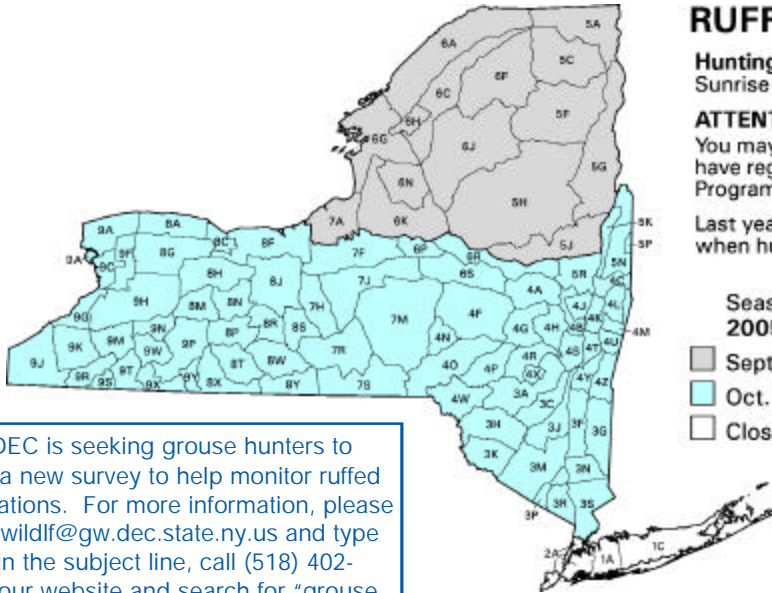


## RUFFED GROUSE HUNTING

**Hunting Hours**  
Sunrise to Sunset

**ATTENTION GROUSE HUNTERS:**  
You may not shoot woodcock unless you have registered in the Harvest Information Program. To register, call 1-866-426-3778.

Last year's license is required when hunting prior to October 1.



Season Dates 2005/2006	Daily Bag Limits
Sept. 20 - Feb. 28	4
Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	4
Closed	-

**Attention:** DEC is seeking grouse hunters to participate in a new survey to help monitor ruffed grouse populations. For more information, please email us at [fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us) and type "grouse log" in the subject line, call (518) 402-8943, or visit our website and search for "grouse hunter log."

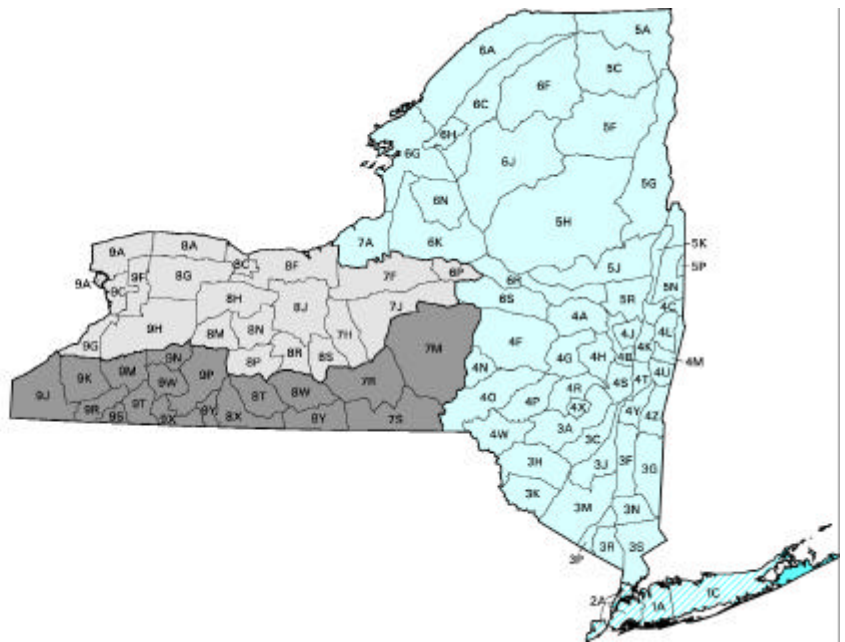


## PHEASANT HUNTING

**Hunting Hours**  
Sunrise to Sunset

- Cocks only
- Cocks & hens
- Cocks only east of Shinnecock Canal & Inlet

Season Dates 2005	Bag Limits	
	Daily	Season
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 15 - Nov. 18	2	-
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #808080; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 15 - Dec. 31	2	-
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	2	-
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	4	30
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	4	30



**Attention:** If you would like to raise and release pheasants to increase pheasant hunting opportunities, please email us at [fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us) and type "pheasants" in the subject line or call (607) 273-2768. For a list of hunting areas where pheasants are released, contact a DEC Regional Wildlife Office or visit our website and search for "pheasant release sites."



## BOBWHITE QUAIL HUNTING

**Hunting Hours** Sunrise to Sunset

Season Dates 2005/2006	Bag Limits	
	Daily	Season
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	4	10
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	6	40
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Closed	-	-





# TURKEY HUNTING

## General Information

A turkey permit and one of the following licenses are required while hunting wild turkey: Small Game, Small/Big Game, Conservation Legacy, Super Sportsman, Sportsman, Junior Hunting, Nonresident Hunting or Nonresident Super Sportsman license.

- You may buy only one turkey permit per year.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow or firearm.
- If you have taken a turkey which is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another. You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office on page 3.

## Spring Youth Hunt

Eligible hunters are 12-15 years of age, holding a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.

All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see page 8).

The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm or longbow, or kill or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt.

The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth's regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.

All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.

## Manner of Taking

- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow.

- You may hunt with a shotgun. The shot must be no larger than #2 and no smaller than #8.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or handgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys.

## Tagging and Possession

- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, and attach it to the carcass.
  - The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
  - You may give your turkey to another person. You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
    - your name
    - your address
    - your hunting license number
    - turkey permit carcass tag number
    - his/her name
    - his/her address
- This tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.

## Fall Turkey Season

- You may take a bird of either sex.
- Bag limits and season dates are given on the next page. In a two-bird area, you may take both birds in one day.
- There are two carcass tags for the fall season. Use "statewide" tag in any turkey hunting area. Use "two bird area" tag only in an area with a

2 bird bag limit. Look on the next page for the map showing the two bird bag limit area. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.

- If you take a turkey, save one leg from each turkey you take.** You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report. The legs are used for age and sex information.

## Spring Turkey Season

- In the spring you may take two bearded birds. You may only take one bird per day.
- Fill out the carcass tag and attach it to the bird.
- You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring. You do need to take careful spur and beard measurements and record them on the spring carcass tag.
  - Spur measurements: spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest 1/4 inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
  - Beard Measurements: beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest 1/4 inch.

## Reporting Your Take

For both fall and spring, you **MUST** report taking a turkey via the DECALS reporting system. See page 7 of this guide for more information. Call 1-866-426-3778 within 48 hours to report take.

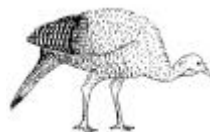
To report your spring turkey take, you will need the spur and beard measurements recorded on the carcass tag.

## Hen or Gobbler?

Only bearded wild turkeys may be taken throughout the spring season. This regulation helps protect female turkeys during the nesting period. Yes, some hens do have beards, but they represent less than five percent of the female population. Although few hens are taken, their loss reduces the reproductive potential of the population. That loss is avoidable, if you remember these tips:

### HEN

blue-gray color  
light, rusty-brown  
usually no beard  
usually no spurs  
yelp, cluck, cut  
no strut  
1/2 to 2/3 size of gobbler



### GOBBLER

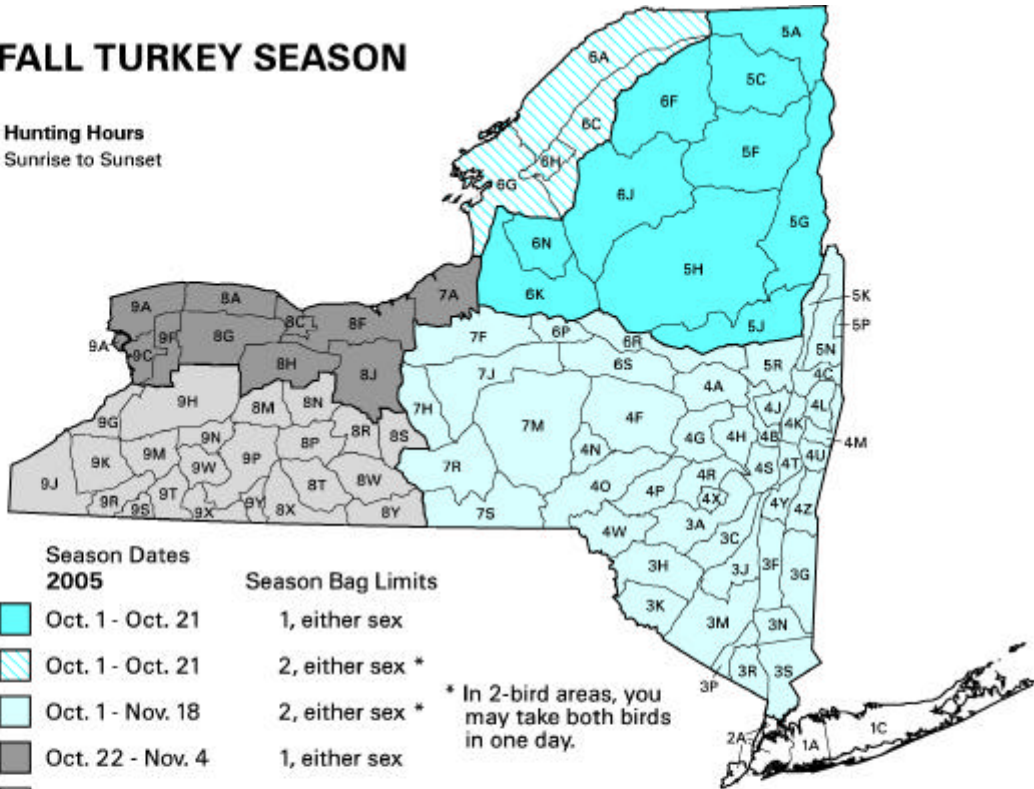
red, blue and white colors  
dark, brown-black  
long bristle-like beard  
usually 1/2-inch or longer spurs  
gobble, drum  
strut with tail fan and wing droop  
larger than hen





## FALL TURKEY SEASON

**Hunting Hours**  
Sunrise to Sunset



Season Dates 2005		Season Bag Limits
	Oct. 1 - Oct. 21	1, either sex
	Oct. 1 - Oct. 21	2, either sex *
	Oct. 1 - Nov. 18	2, either sex *
	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	1, either sex
	Oct. 22 - Nov. 18	1, either sex
	Closed	

\* In 2-bird areas, you may take both birds in one day.

## SPRING TURKEY SEASON (NO MAP)

**Hunting Hours**  
One-half-hour before sunrise to Noon.

**Area Open**  
All of upstate New York north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary.

**Season Dates**  
May 1 - May 31

**Season Bag Limits**  
Two bearded turkeys (one bird per day)

## SPRING YOUTH HUNT

**Season Dates**  
April 22 - 23, 2006

**Area Open**  
Same as regular spring season

**Eligible hunters**  
Youth 12 - 15 years of age

**Bag Limit**  
One bearded turkey

See page 15 for details

During Spring and Fall, you **MUST** report taking a turkey within 48 hours, via the DECALS system (1-866-426-3778). See page 7 for details.

They both sound just like turkeys, and they both know they will have to shoot fast.



# Stalking Stinks!

Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another.

- Don't Stalk Turkeys. It is dangerous.
- Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is another turkey hunter.
- Never wear turkey colors - red, white or blue.
- Call with a large tree at your back.
- If you see another hunter...DON'T MOVE!
- Never wave, whistle, or make any turkey call or animal sound.
- Speak Up in a loud, clear voice to identify yourself.
- Wrap an orange vest around a tree near your calling location to let other hunters know you are there.
- Use #4 or smaller shot and place your shot in the head or neck at 40 yards or less.
- Use extreme caution when carrying any harvested bird or decoy in the field.
- Be 100 % sure of your target... and beyond before you shoot!

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

Migratory game bird hunting regulations are set by the Federal Government in late summer, **so all of the information on this page is tentative.** If there are changes in these regulations, announcements will be made in DEC news releases to newspapers statewide. Final waterfowl hunting seasons will be announced in September, and a waterfowl hunting guide containing season dates and bag limits will be available from license issuing agents in late September. All migratory game bird hunters must register **annually** with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) through the DECALS reporting system. Call 1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778) or register online at [www.wetland.net](http://www.wetland.net).



### CANADA GOOSE - SEPTEMBER SEASON

**Bag Limits:** Lake Champlain - 3/day, 6 in possession. All other areas - 5/day, 10 in possession.

**Shooting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

**Non-toxic shot:** required

**Other:** Last year's hunting license is required when hunting prior to October 1. All hunters must be registered in HIP. Contact DEC for hunting area boundaries, if needed.



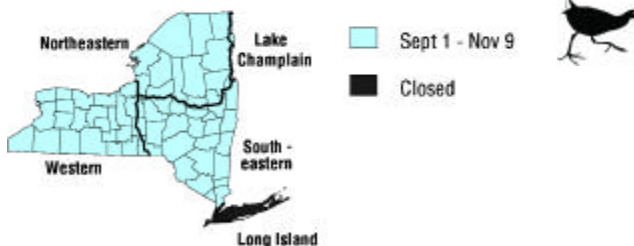
### WOODCOCK

**Bag Limits:** 3/day, 6 in possession

**Shooting Hours:** sunrise to sunset

**Non-toxic shot:** not required

**Other:** All woodcock hunters must be registered in HIP.



### SNIPE, RAILS AND GALLINULES

**Bag Limits:** Snipe - 8/day, 16 in possession

Virginia & Sora rails - 8/day, 16 in possession

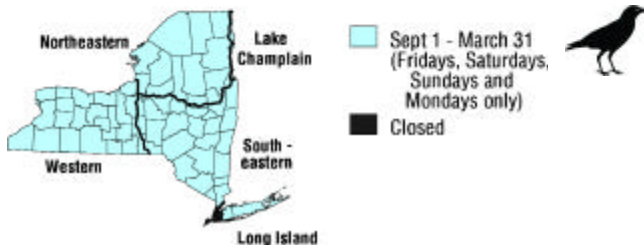
Clapper & King rails - closed

Gallinules - 8/day, 16 in possession

**Shooting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset

**Non-toxic shot:** required

**Other:** Last year's hunting license is required when hunting prior to October 1. All snipe, rail and gallinule hunters must be registered in HIP.



### CROWS

**Bag Limits:** No daily or possession limits

**Shooting Hours:** sunrise to sunset

**Non-toxic shot:** not required

**Other:** Last year's hunting license is required when hunting prior to October 1. Crow hunters do not need to be registered in HIP. Crows may be hunted with rifles and recorded electronically amplified bird calls or sounds.

## LAST OF STATE - FINAL IN THE SERIES - LAST OF STATE - FINAL IN THE SERIES

### NEW YORK STATE MIGRATORY BIRD PRINT & STAMP PROGRAM

For almost 20 years New York's Migratory Bird Program print and stamp sales have provided money for migratory bird habitat conservation projects. However, due to a significant decline in sales, we have decided to make the 2002 image, "Canvasbacks on the Great Niagara" the Last of State. Though the program is ending on December 31, 2005, revenue generated will continue to be used for habitat restoration projects that will benefit wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts for generations to come.

For information or to place an order, call 1-800-325-2370 or visit our website at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/migrbird/index.html>



## LAST OF STATE - FINAL IN THE SERIES - LAST OF STATE - FINAL IN THE SERIES



# MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

## Migratory Game Bird Hunting

This is a summary of regulations about hunting migratory game birds. You can read the actual state and federal regulations on the internet. The state regulations are in Title 6, New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Part 2.30 (see [www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/ch1.htm](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/ch1.htm)). The federal regulations are in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20 (see [www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_01/50cfr20\\_01.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/50cfr20_01.html)). Because season dates and bag limits are not finalized until late summer, we prepare a separate summary of hunting regulations for migratory game bird hunters.

### What is a "migratory game bird?"

- All wild ducks, geese, and brant (These also are "migratory waterfowl")
- Coot, Virginia rails, sora rails, and gallinules
- Woodcock and snipe

Note: For hunting common crows, the migratory game bird hunting regulations do not apply. Please read the regulations in the "small game hunting" section, page 12. The crow hunting season is shown on the map on page 17.

### License Requirements

- You need a Junior Hunting, Small Game, Small/Big Game, Conservation Legacy, Super Sportsman, Sportsman, Nonresident Hunting or Nonresident Super Sportsman license (unless you qualify to hunt without a license).
- **You must register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP), using the new DECALS reporting system.** Call 1-866-426-3778, or online at [www.wetland.net](http://www.wetland.net).
- If you are 16 years or older and hunt waterfowl, you need a federal migratory bird hunting stamp.

### Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

- You may buy the federal "duck stamp" at most post offices, some sporting goods stores, call 1-800-382-5499, or visit [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com). It costs \$15.00 plus a service charge for phone or internet orders. The money is used to conserve wetlands.
- You must sign across the face of stamp in ink before hunting. **You do not need to attach the stamp to your hunting license or back tag, but you must carry it when hunting.**
- These stamps are NOT needed to hunt coot, rails, gallinules, woodcock, snipe, or crow.

### Nontoxic Shot

- You must use and possess only nontoxic shot when hunting ducks, geese, brant, snipe, rails, gallinules, or coots.

- Approved nontoxic shots include: steel, bismuth/tin, tungsten/iron, tungsten/polymer, tungsten/matrix, tungsten/nickel/iron, or other shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Hunting Blinds

- Blinds placed in lake waters must be labeled with owner's name & address.
- Blinds must be removed from lake waters no later than March 15.

### Requirements

You may NOT hunt migratory game birds using these methods:

- With a shotgun that holds more than three shells, unless it has a plug that cannot be removed without taking the shotgun apart.
- With a shotgun larger than 10 gauge, or with a rifle or handgun.
- With a trap, snare, or net.
- With a swivel gun, battery gun, machine gun, or explosive.
- With fishhooks, poisons, or drugs.
- From a sink box. This is a float that conceals your entire body below the water surface.
- From a car or other motor vehicle on land. Note: Paraplegics and leg amputees, **with a permit issued by DEC**, are exempted from this restriction.
- From a motorboat or sailboat unless the motor is off or the sail furled, and the boat has stopped moving.

**Note:** Boats under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds. You may not shoot crippled birds when under power, except in the Special Sea Duck Area.

- With live decoys. If you have captive waterfowl, they must be removed from your hunting area at least 10 days prior to hunting and confined in an enclosure so they cannot be seen or heard by migratory waterfowl.
- With electronic calls, amplifiers, or tapes of calls.
- By driving or chasing birds with any motorized boat or vehicle, or sail boat so that the birds are pushed in

shooting range of hunters.

- By using bait to attract waterfowl. A "baited area" is considered to be baited for 10 days after any bait is actually removed. Even if you did not place the bait, you may still be ticketed if you hunt in a baited area.

**Note:** You may hunt near standing or harvested crops, flooded or unflooded. You also may hunt where grain crops have been shocked in the field, or where grains are scattered on the ground from normal farm practices.

### After You Shoot...

- You must make a reasonable effort to retrieve all killed or crippled birds.
- Wounded birds must be immediately killed and included in your daily bag.
- The head or one fully feathered wing must stay on each bird until you get home or to a commercial storage site.

### Tagging Birds You Shoot

If you leave your birds with someone else, you need to tag the birds with:

- Your signature and address.
- A list of all birds by species and date of kill.

These requirements apply if you give your birds to someone else to transport, clean, store, ship, or prepare for mounting.

### Shipping

If you ship birds, mark the package with this information:

- Your name and address.
- The name and address of the person you are shipping the birds to.
- The number of birds, by species.

These regulations are summarized in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 20.61-20.66; see [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_01/50cfr20\\_01.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/50cfr20_01.html)

- One fully feathered wing must stay on each bird
- With the exception of birds sent here from Canada, you need to remove the head and feet, along with internal organs from any bird shipped.
- You are not allowed to ship birds taken by another hunter.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE for Waterfowl Hunters

### Don't be a victim in a boating accident...

- Always wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD). They save lives.
- The law requires that you have one PFD for everyone in your boat/canoe.
- Never shoot while standing. You may tip-over your boat/canoe, or you may fall in the water. Stay seated or kneeling.
- Remember: During New York's hunting seasons, the water is cold. Guard against hypothermia. If you get wet, dry off quickly and get help.
- Hunt with a partner—the "Buddy System" works!

For more information go to: <http://www.uscgboating.org>  
<http://nysparks.com/boats>

## Health Advisory for Waterfowl Hunters

The NYS Department of Health recommends that:

- you eat no mergansers,
- you remove all fat and skin from waterfowl before cooking,
- you discard stuffing after cooking waterfowl,
- you eat no more than two waterfowl per month.

If you choose to eat snapping turtles, you should carefully trim all fat and discard fat, liver and eggs prior to cooking to reduce exposure to contaminants. For information on these health advisories, call 1-800-458-1158 or visit the website: [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us).

## Report Banded Waterfowl

Please report any leg-banded waterfowl that you shoot or find dead. Call 1-800-327-2263 or send the band number, species, date and location of kill, and your name and address to:

Bird Banding Laboratory  
U.S. Geological Survey  
12100 Beech Forest Road Ste 4037  
Laurel, MD 20708-9962

You will receive information about when and where the bird was banded.

# FURBEARER HUNTING

To hunt furbearers, you need to possess a Junior Hunting, Small Game, Small/Big Game, Conservation Legacy, Super Sportsman, Sportsman, Nonresident Hunting, or Nonresident Super Sportsman license. A trapping license does not allow you to hunt furbearers. Furbearers may be hunted with a bow or firearm as described below. All laws pertaining to the use of a spotlight apply (see page 11).

- You may hunt red and gray fox, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, mink, weasel and opossum.
- If you take a bobcat, it must be tagged and sealed (see page 33).
- You may use a call, including an electronic call.
- You may hunt furbearers only after

sunrise on the opening day. They may be taken at any hour, day or night, for the rest of their hunting season.

- Skunk may be hunted during their open trapping season (see page 35).
- Mink may only be hunted in the Southern Zone with a firearm not larger than a .22 caliber firearm during their open trapping season (see page 34). Mink may not be hunted with a firearm in the Northern Zone.
- Muskrat may only be hunted on Lake Champlain during the open trapping season (see page 34) with a firearm not larger than a .22 caliber.
- You may hunt furbearers **during the day** using any handgun, shot-

gun, rifle or bow. You may hunt at night as described below:

### Hunting at Night

You may hunt furbearers at night, with or without a light, as follows:

- Use any handgun or bow.
- Use a shotgun loaded with shot (any size).
- Use a rifle chambered in any cartridge, except that you may not possess a centerfire rifle afield, during the day or night, during any open season for deer in areas restricted to using a shotgun only for deer.

If hunting without a light, the use of a light gathering ("starlight") scope is legal on any firearm listed above.

**NOTE:** Westchester County and Long Island - Rifles are not allowed.

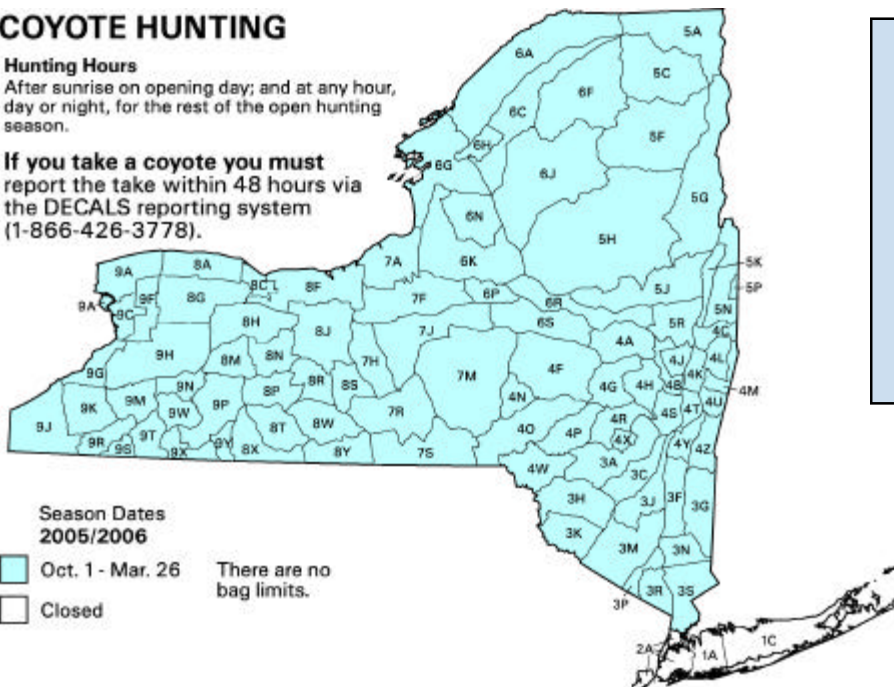


## COYOTE HUNTING

### Hunting Hours

After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open hunting season.

**If you take a coyote you must report the take within 48 hours via the DECALS reporting system (1-866-426-3778).**



Season Dates  
2005/2006

Oct. 1 - Mar. 26

Closed

There are no bag limits.

### Tagged Wildlife

Please report all game you have taken that have a DEC band or tag. For small game and game birds, send the number on the band or tag (except waterfowl - see above), species, date and location of take, and the band or tag if possible to: Tagged Wildlife, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754.

*Hunters and trappers are no longer required to get a coyote sealed. You are still required to report the taking of a coyote by calling 1-866-GAMERPT (1-866-426-3778) within 48 hours of take.*

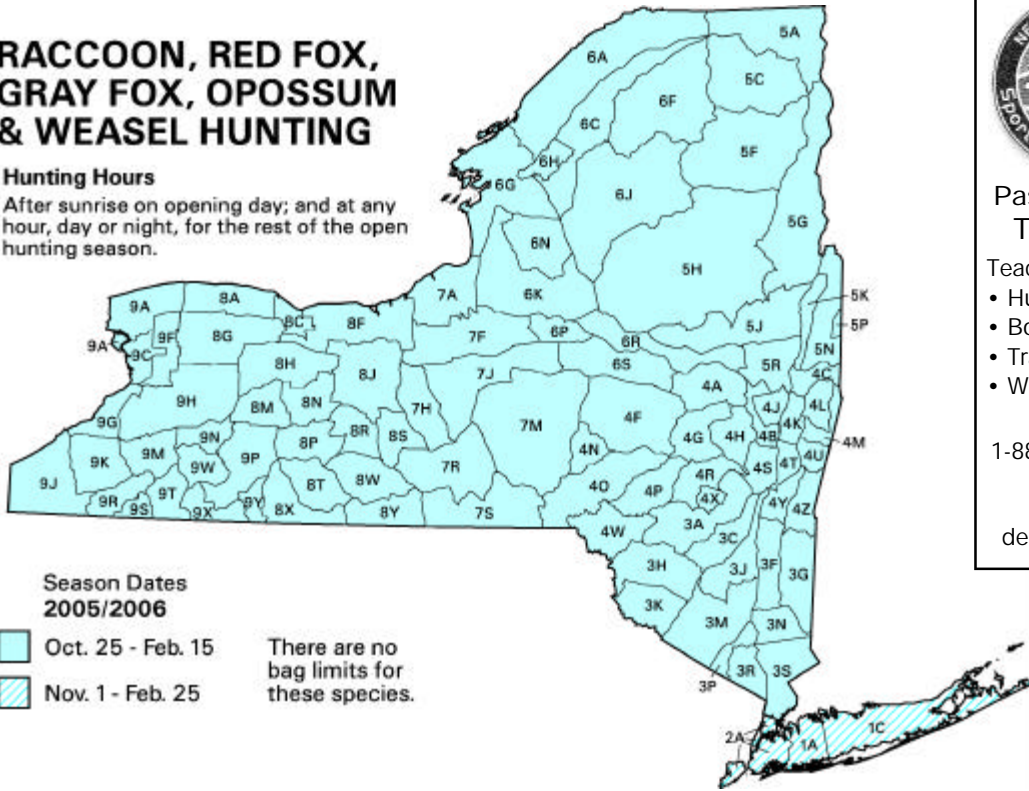




## RACCOON, RED FOX, GRAY FOX, OPOSSUM & WEASEL HUNTING

### Hunting Hours

After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open hunting season.



### Season Dates 2005/2006

- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
  - Nov. 1 - Feb. 25
- There are no bag limits for these species.



Pass On The Tradition

Teach:

- Hunter Ed
- Bowhunting
- Trapping
- Waterfowl ID

NYS DEC  
1-888-HUNT-ED2  
toll-free  
www.  
dec.state.ny.us



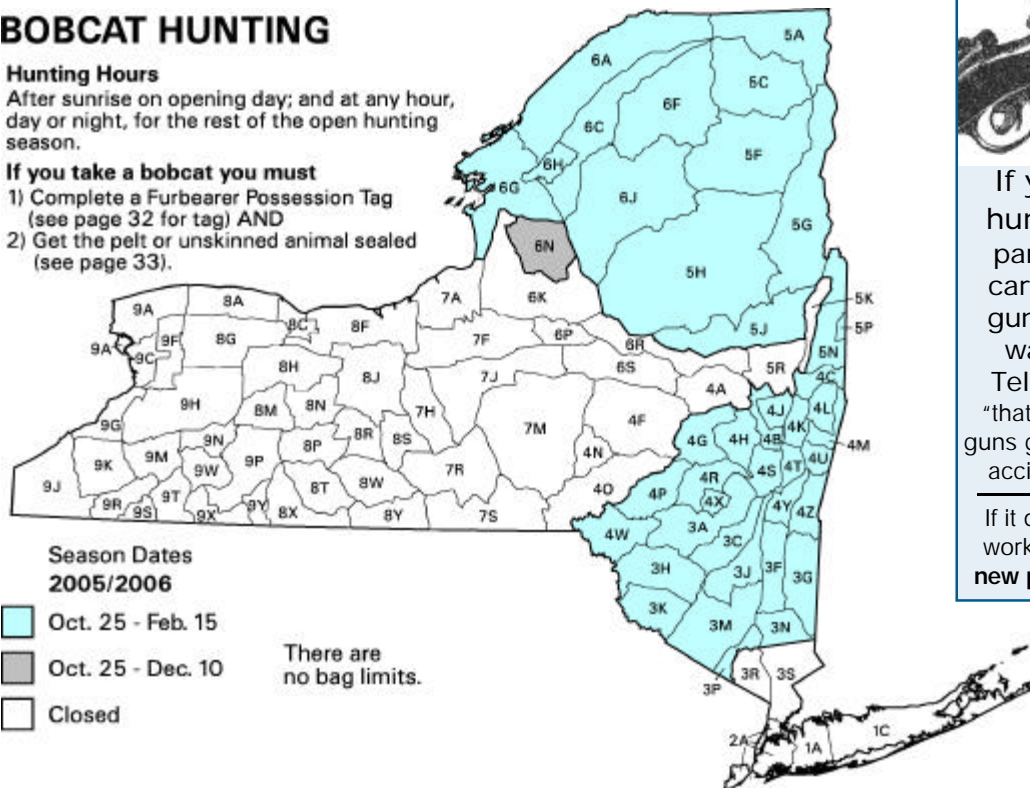
## BOBCAT HUNTING

### Hunting Hours

After sunrise on opening day; and at any hour, day or night, for the rest of the open hunting season.

### If you take a bobcat you must

- 1) Complete a Furbearer Possession Tag (see page 32 for tag) AND
- 2) Get the pelt or unskinned animal sealed (see page 33).



### Season Dates 2005/2006

- Oct. 25 - Feb. 15
  - Oct. 25 - Dec. 10
  - Closed
- There are no bag limits.



If your hunting partner carries a gun this way... Tell him "that's how guns go off by accident."

If it doesn't work, get a new partner.