

# Idaho Migratory Game Bird

2019-2020 Seasons & Rules



*Includes Seasons and Rules for  
Crows, Doves, Sandhill Cranes and Waterfowl*

[idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)



# Duck's-Eye View



Sit in the cockpit with pilot biologists as they monitor waterfowl populations across the continent

[www.Flyways.us/pilots](http://www.Flyways.us/pilots)

Duck band maps | Population monitoring | Harvest reports | Duck ID

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### 2019-2020 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

Artist: Scot Storm, Wood Duck & Decoy



### Celebrating our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage

Hunting dogs, duck calls, decoys, and valuable time in the field with friends and family; the heritage and traditions of waterfowl hunting continue to illustrate wildlife conservation.

*If applicable, sign your stamp. Conserve habitat for the future... buy Duck Stamps!*

# DIRECTOR SHRIEVER'S OPEN LETTER TO THE HUNTERS, ANGLERS AND TRAPPERS OF IDAHO



It's my honor to be the director of Idaho Fish and Game, and my priority is to maintain Idaho's high-quality hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities.

Our migratory bird hunting, whether it's hunting doves and sandhill cranes in September, ducks in October or snow geese in March, provides diverse opportunity with long seasons and ample bird populations for hunters to pursue.

Rules and seasons for migratory bird hunting have traditionally been generous and fairly consistent, but there are some exceptions, and the 2019-20 season is no different.

Duck hunters will have a one-bird limit for pintails due to North American populations being below their long-term average.

Hunters pursuing light geese will gain some later hunting opportunity in Eastern Idaho with the shifting of portions of several counties west of Interstate 15 from Area 2 to Area 4.

Otherwise, rules and seasons will be very similar to recent years, and overall, hunters can look forward to healthy populations of migratory birds, which include doves, ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, Wilson's snipe, coots, and American crows. Most of these species are found statewide, so everyone has a chance to hunt them.

Hunters can pursue most of these birds with a hunting license, migratory bird permit, and a waterfowl stamp for ducks and geese. One exception is sandhill cranes, where a tag is required, and a limited number are available at license and tag vendors on a first-come, first-served basis starting August 1.

Aside from a great variety of opportunity, migratory birds are a good way to introduce people to hunting. Youth waterfowl hunters get a special statewide season on September 28-29 that is limited to ages 17 and younger.

New hunters of all ages can take advantage of Idaho Fish and Game's "Passport Program," which is a simple, low-cost way for newcomers to try mentored hunting under these stipulations:

- Hunting Passports are only available to first time hunters. Those who have previously held a hunting license in any state are not eligible.
- Hunter Education certification is not needed to obtain a Hunting Passport. If an individual has completed a Hunter Education course, but has not yet purchased a license, they are eligible for a Hunting Passport.
- The minimum age to hold a Hunting Passport is eight years old; there is no maximum age.
- Hunting Passports are available at license vendors and Fish and Game regional offices for \$1.75.
- Youth ages 8 and 9 years old can possess a Hunting Passport each year until they turn 10, but anyone who is 10 or older can only possess one Hunting Passport.
- You can see more details about the Passport Program at [idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/passport](http://idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/passport)

Finally, Idaho is a diverse state with different latitudes, elevations and climates, which means it can be challenging to time seasons to coincide with bird migrations. Unlike other game animals in Idaho, migratory bird rules and season frameworks are set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based on international treaties, and Idaho must set its seasons within those federal guidelines.

Idaho has traditionally opted toward the most generous bag limits and longest seasons within those guidelines, and it strives to provide hunters access to as much hunting opportunity as possible during peak migration times.

Enjoy migratory bird hunting, and thank you for supporting Idaho Fish and Game and wildlife conservation in Idaho. I wish you great hunting, fishing and trapping in 2019 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Schriever". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Ed Schriever**, Director  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game



# Idaho Department of Fish and Game

## Idaho Wildlife Policy

*“All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping.”*

— Idaho Code Section 36-103

### Idaho Fish and Game Commission

- Brad Corkill, Panhandle
- Daniel Blanco, Clearwater
- Tim Murphy, Southwest
- Greg Cameron, Magic Valley
- Lane Clezie, Southeast
- Derick Attebury, Upper Snake
- Jerry Meyers, Salmon

### Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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208-334-3700 • [idfg.idaho.gov](http://idfg.idaho.gov)

- Ed Schriever, Director
- Scott Reinecker, Deputy Director
- Paul Kline, Deputy Director

### Regional Offices

- Panhandle Region..... 208-769-1414  
2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d’Alene ID 83815
- Clearwater Region ..... 208-799-5010  
3316 16th St., Lewiston ID 83501
- Southwest Region ..... 208-465-8465  
15950 N. Gate Blvd., Nampa ID 83687
- McCall Subregion..... 208-634-8137  
555 Deinhard Lane, McCall ID 83638
- Magic Valley Region ..... 208-324-4359  
324 S 417 E; Suite #1, Jerome ID 83338
- Southeast Region ..... 208-232-4703  
1345 Barton Rd., Pocatello ID 83204
- Upper Snake Region ..... 208-525-7290  
4279 Commerce Circle, Idaho Falls ID 83401
- Salmon Region..... 208-756-2271  
99 Highway 93 N., Salmon ID 83467

Idaho Fish and Game offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except state holidays. Offices in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions are in the Pacific Time Zone; all others are in the Mountain Time Zone.

## To Buy a License, Tag or Permit:

- In person, go to any Idaho Fish and Game office or license vendor.
- By credit card, within the United States call 1-800-554-8685. Outside the U.S., use the Internet or mail.
- From your computer or mobile device, go to [idfg.idaho.gov/buy](http://idfg.idaho.gov/buy). A service fee is added for online and telephone transactions.
- Commercial licenses and tags, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits may be purchased only at Fish and Game offices.

## Other Information Numbers

Rules booklets, nonresident license applications: 208-334-3700

U. S. Forest Service:

Southern Idaho ..... [fs.usda.gov/r4](http://fs.usda.gov/r4)

Northern Idaho..... [fs.usda.gov/r1](http://fs.usda.gov/r1)

Bureau of Land Management: ..... [blm.gov/idaho](http://blm.gov/idaho)

Idaho Relay Service (TDD) .....1-800-377-3529

## To report wildlife crimes, call Citizens Against Poaching at 1-800-632-5999.

Emergency information can be relayed to Fish and Game personnel through any Idaho law enforcement agency.



*Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, disability or veteran’s status. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of IDFG, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, Mailstop: MBSP-4020, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Telephone: (703) 358-2156. This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact IDFG for assistance.*

Information in this brochure summarizes rules and is an official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the taking of wildlife. The official rules are available at [adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current](http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current) or from the Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mail, Boise, ID 83720, and may be reviewed in some libraries. Maps are for general reference only.

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.  
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Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
**Idaho Migratory Game Bird Rules 2019 & 2020**

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**What's New?**

**Ducks:**

Reduced daily bag limit from 2 to 1 pintail. See page 8.

**Geese:**

Light Geese: Butte County and those portions of Bonneville, Jefferson, and Clark counties west of Interstate 15 were moved from Area 2 to Area 4 to allow late winter/spring hunting opportunities. See page 11.

**Youth Waterfowl Hunt:**

September 28 & 29 statewide. See page 7.

**Sandhill Crane:**

The number of crane tags was reduced to accommodate for the reduction in the annual harvest allocation for Idaho, as per the Flyway Management Plan. See page 13.

**Price Lock & Depredation/Access Fee:**

The Idaho Legislature in 2017 passed a resident fee increase for 2018 licenses, tags and permits, and along with it, new features for hunters and anglers.

First, "Price Lock" allowed resident hunters, anglers and trappers to avoid the fee increase on license, tags and permits, at least through 2022, by purchasing an annual license every year starting in 2017. If you were unable to purchase a 2017 annual license, you can still participate in Price Lock by buying any three-year license, or a lifetime license. See details at [idfg.idaho.gov/pricelock](http://idfg.idaho.gov/pricelock)

Second, an Access/Depredation fee is now required to purchase an annual hunting, fishing and trapping license. The fee is \$5 for resident adults and \$10 for nonresident adults, and pays for public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife-based recreation, as well as paying private landowners for damage caused by wildlife. The fee only applies to your first annual license of the year. Learn more at: [idfg.idaho.gov/licenses/access-depredation-fee](http://idfg.idaho.gov/licenses/access-depredation-fee)



**STOP AQUATIC  
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[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

# GETTING STARTED

## To use this brochure:

Hunting seasons and rules for all ducks, geese, sandhill crane, doves, and crow are available in this brochure. To get started:

- Pick the species and area you want to hunt, then refer to the section on that bird.
- Season and limit pages include maps for each hunting area.

There are two hunt areas for ducks, three hunt areas for Canada and white-fronted geese; and four hunt areas for light geese.

**Page 8:** Duck, snipe and coot seasons, limits and areas.

**Pages 9-11:** Goose seasons, limits and areas.

**Page 12:** Mourning dove and crow seasons and limits

**Page 13:** Sandhill crane seasons and limits.

**Pages 22-32:** Detailed rules and related information.

It is the responsibility of the hunter to become familiar with the rules that affect the hunt in which he or she is participating. **Seasons and rules may change after a booklet is printed.** Changes or corrections are posted online at [idfg.idaho.gov/rules](http://idfg.idaho.gov/rules).

## Remember!

Waterfowl hunters are required to possess/use:

- A valid Idaho hunting license or hunting passport.
- Migratory Bird (HIP) Permit.
- Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) Stamp for all hunters 16 years or older.
- Nontoxic shot.



License holder must validate stamp by signing across the front in ink.

Available online @ [idfg.idaho.gov/duckstamp](http://idfg.idaho.gov/duckstamp)

Seasons	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Special Youth Hunt Statewide	Sept. 28 - 29th						
Duck Area 1		12th - 24th	31st Scaup	24th			
Duck Area 2		5th - 17th	5th Scaup	29th			
Canada Goose Area 1		12th - 24th					
Canada Goose Area 2		5th - 17th					
Canada Goose Area 3	1st-15th	5th - 2nd					
White-fronted Goose Area 1		12th - 24th					
White-fronted Goose Area 2		5th - 17th					
White-fronted Goose Area 3			4th - 16th				
Light Goose Area 1		12th - 24th					
Light Goose Area 2		5th - 17th					
Light Goose Area 3			27th - 10th				
Light Goose Area 4			6th - 17th			8th - 10th	

# REPORT DUCK AND GOOSE LEG BANDS

**Why?** By reporting, you help provide information used to monitor populations, set hunting regulations, restore endangered species, and address issues such as avian influenza, bird hazards, and crop depredations. Plus you will receive a report on when and where the bird was banded.



To report please visit:  
**[reportband.gov](http://reportband.gov)**



## Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend

*There is no better way to introduce a new hunter to the safe, ethical and responsible aspects of hunting than with the close supervision of a qualified adult mentor.*

- Open to licensed hunters 17 years of age and younger.
- Duck, goose, snipe, and coot seasons are open for two days only, on September 28-29, 2019.
- Migratory Bird (HIP) Permit—required.
- Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) Stamp—not required for hunters 15 and younger.
- Daily duck, goose, snipe, and coot limits are the same as regular season limits statewide.
- At least one adult 18 years or older with a valid hunting license must accompany each youth hunting party into the field at all times. Adults are not authorized to hunt; **they do not need a migratory bird (HIP) permit or Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) stamp to accompany youth during this hunt.**
- All other state rules and federal regulations pertaining to take of migratory game birds are in effect for this hunt.