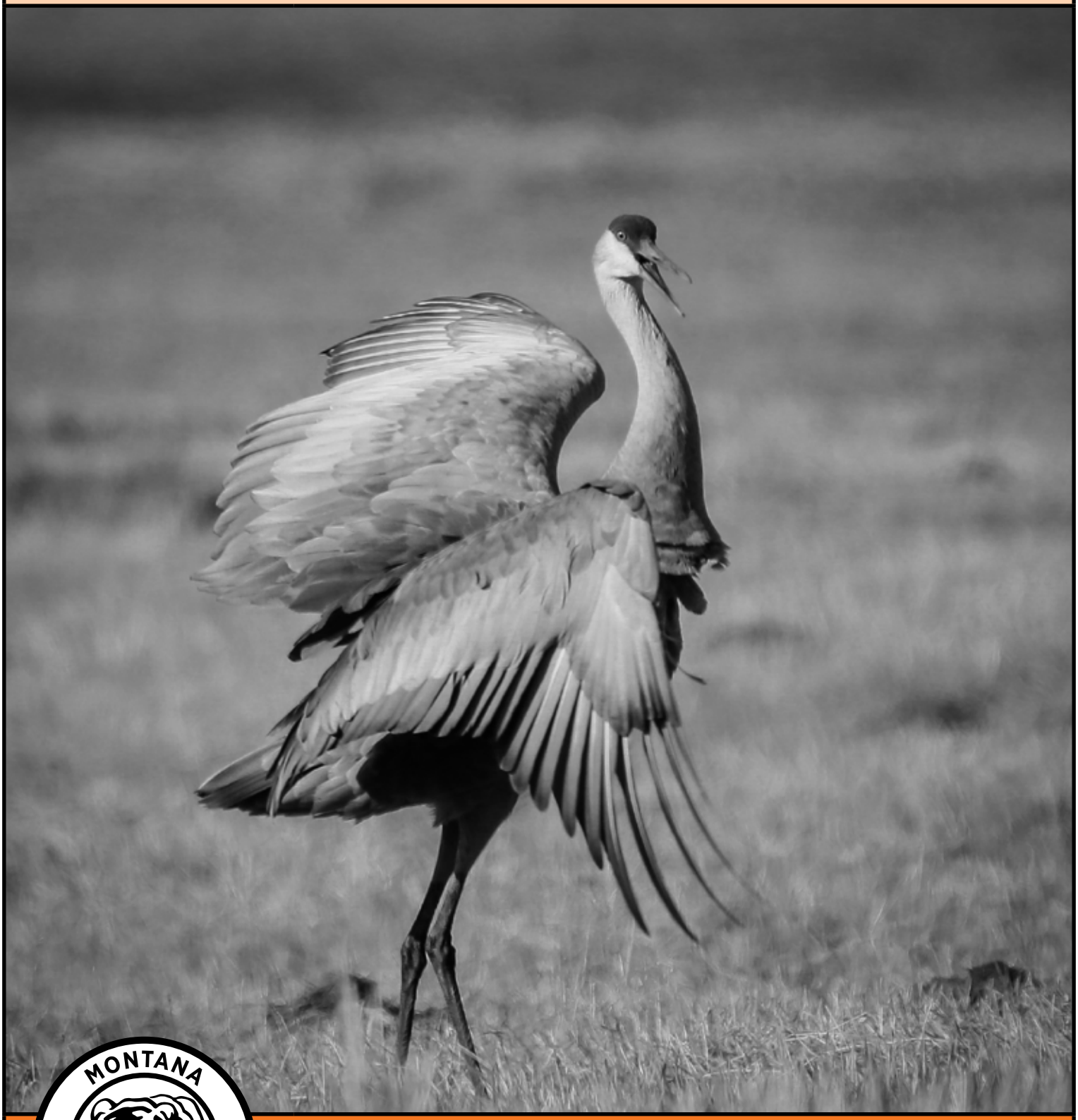
2020

MIGRATORY BIRDS

WATERFOWL ▪ SANDHILL CRANE ▪ MOURNING DOVE ▪ SNIPE

FWP | MONTANA HUNTING REGULATIONS



Sandhill Crane | *Antigone canadensis* | Photo by Dawn Smartnick

TURN IN POACHERS: CALL 1-800-TIP-MONT

fwp.mt.gov

Highlights/Reminders

- No paper applications for swan and crane special licenses will be accepted by mail. A worksheet will be available on the website for your reference or to be taken to an FWP office to be entered over-the-counter.
- Decreased the daily bag limit for scaup from 3 to 2 in the Pacific Flyway and from 2 to 1 in the Central Flyway.
- Be aware of split seasons and carefully note closed and open days for hunting and note zone differences.
- The Central Flyway is divided into two "zones" in order to increase opportunity (see map on page 8). The two zones have different season dates. The smaller zone, Zone 2, includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone counties. Zone 1 includes all other counties in the Central Flyway portion of Montana.

Regulations are adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission

Regulations for season dates, structures, and restrictions were adopted by the F&W Commission on April 23, 2020, under the authority granted in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021. The F&W Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Statutes and other information, including other agencies' restrictions, are provided as a courtesy and do not fall under Commission authority. *Martha Williams, Director.*

Discrimination Prohibited – State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any FWP program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Human Resources, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Obtain a License

The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers throughout the state, and online at **fwp.mt.gov**. **Exception:** The Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) is available from the USPS as well as all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices. The stamp is valid July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his/her person a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp.

License Chart							
	Ducks, Geese, and Swans				Cranes, Doves, and Snipe		
	12 to 15	16 to 17	18 to 61	62+	12 to 15	16 to 17	18+
Federal Migratory Bird Stamp	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
MT Migratory License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Conservation License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Base hunting License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost							
	Resident				Non-Resident		
	12 to 15	16 to 17	18 to 61	62+	12 to 15	16 to 17	18+
Federal Migratory Bird Stamp	NA	$25.00	$25.00	$25.00	NA	$25.00	$25.00
MT Migratory License	$3.25	$3.25	$6.50	$6.50	$25.00	$25.00	$50.00
Conservation License	$4.00	$4.00	$8.00	$4.00	$10.00		
Base hunting License	$10.00				$15.00		

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All migratory bird hunters in Montana, as well as in all other states, are required to take part in a National Harvest Survey Program. To comply with HIP, you must complete a survey including your name, address and date of birth before you can purchase your Montana Migratory Bird License. In addition, you will be asked to respond to several questions about your hunting experience in Montana during last year's season.

Drawing Applications

License Applications –

- Online at **fwp.mt.gov** no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT:
  - **Sandhill Crane** special licenses by **July 24**
  - **Swan** special licenses by **July 24**
- Over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters
- A $5 application fee must be paid at the time of application
- Applicants must possess a current year Conservation & Base Hunting License to apply
- Successful applicants will be required to purchase a Montana Migratory Bird License and Federal Migratory Bird Stamp if necessary as specified in these regulations

Hunter Education and Youth Hunting Opportunities

If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course (or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province) prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Youth Hunters – there are two ways to be a youth hunter:

1. An **Apprentice Hunter** is a resident or nonresident at least 10 years of age certified at an FWP office. This allows the apprentice to hunt some species, while accompanied by a mentor, without first completing a hunter education course. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase a mountain lion, black bear or wolf license, or apply for a bighorn sheep license or a hunting license or permit with a limited quota. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase an elk license if he/she is under 15 years of age. Other restrictions apply. See our website for details at:

   fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/all/apprenticeHunter/default.html
2. A resident or nonresident youth 12-17 years of age may hunt any game species for which their license is valid. Those who will reach 12 years of age by January 16, 2021, may hunt any game species, for which their license is valid, after August 15 of the 2020 license year. Proof of hunter education must be presented at the time of purchase.

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt September 26-27, 2020 – Youth 10 to 15 years old may participate in a special two-day early hunt for waterfowl during Sept 26-27. A youth 10-15 participating as an Apprentice Hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult mentor at least 21 years of age. Otherwise, youth 12-15 who are Hunter Education Certified must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult at least 18 years of age.

Laws & Rules

Statute denoted by MCA and Commission Rule denoted by CR

Baiting (CR) – Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 and 20.21(i). You cannot hunt waterfowl or any

other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

The 10-Day Rule: A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

Boat Launching and Transporting (MCA Title 80, Chapter 7, Part 10)

Transporting watercraft within Montana:

- STOP at all open inspection stations as directed by signs.
- When traveling west across the Continental Divide, watercraft must be inspected before launching. Boats with a ballast or bladder, such as wakeboard or wake-surfing boats, must obtain a hot-water decontamination before launching.
- Inspections are required for all watercraft coming off Tiber & Canyon Ferry Reservoirs. Hot-water wash may be required.

Transporting watercraft into Montana:

- Watercraft must be inspected before launching.
- Non-resident boats launching on Montana waters will be charged an AIS prevention pass fee. Go to fwp.mt.gov for more information. Motorized watercraft fee is $30. Non-motorized watercraft (catamarans, drift boats, kayaks, rafts, and sailboats) fee is $10.
- Watercraft with a ballast or bladder, such as wakeboards or wake-surfing boats, that intend to launch on Montana waters must receive a hot-water decontamination prior to launching.

Check Stations (MCA 87-6-218) All hunters are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting areas, even if they have no game to be checked.

Hunter Harassment (MCA 87-6-215)

It is unlawful to:

- Intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of a wild animal
- Disturb an individual engaged in the lawful taking of a wild animal with intent to prevent the taking of the animal

Hunting Hours (CR) Authorized shooting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and **end at sunset** each day of the hunting season unless otherwise stated in the regulations. See official sunrise-sunset tables on page 11 in these regulations.

Landowner Permission (MCA 87-6-415)

Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land.

- Hunters must have permission from the land owner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not
- Access to public land through private land requires permission of the private land owner, lessee, or their agent
- Hunters must obtain permission before retrieval of wildlife from private lands

License and Permit Possession/Use (MCA 87-6-304)

It is unlawful to-

- Hunt or attempt to hunt for any migratory game bird unless the person is carrying the required license or permit at the time
- Refuse to produce a license or permit and the identification used in purchasing a license or permit for inspection to a game warden
- Alter or change a license in any material manner
- Loan or transfer any license to another person
- Use a license issued to another person.
- Attach the person's license to a migratory game bird killed by another person
- Have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location that the species to be hunted may inhabit. This prohibition does not apply to a person who is carrying or has physical control over a license or permit issued to that person's spouse or to any minor when the spouse or minor is hunting with that person

Method of Taking – Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than 10 gauge incapable of holding more than three shells and fired from the shoulder.

You can hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on, over or from:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation
- Flooded harvested croplands
- Lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural harvesting or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation
- Lands or areas where top-sown seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

It is unlawful to hunt migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure that substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.

Motorized Vehicles and Public Roadways (MCA 87-6-405 and MCA 87-6-403)

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased

- From or by means, aid, of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of, or resulting in, the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird
- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, borrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel)

Nontoxic Shot (MCA 87-3-403 and MCA 87-6-410) No person may take ducks, geese, swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shot shells or as loose shot for muzzle loading) other than approved nontoxic shot. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see:

www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php

Nontoxic shot is not required for webless migratory birds (sandhill crane, mourning dove and snipe) except on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please inquire at the local refuge office.

Possession Limit – The number of birds that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

Possession Limit while in the Field– No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

Possession of Live Birds – Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Recorded Animal Sounds (MCA 87-6-401) It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals, wolves, and those birds not protected by state or federal law.

Selling/Possession of Migratory Game Birds Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.91. Any person may possess, purchase, sell, barter, or transport for the making of fishing flies, and for similar commercial uses the feathers of migratory waterfowl.

Exception: No person shall sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell or barter for millinery or ornamental use the feathers or mounted specimens of migratory game birds.

Transporting Waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Mourning Doves & Snipe –

- **Species Identification Requirement**– No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.
- **Tagging** – No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) the hunter's signature; 2) the hunter's address; 3) the total number of birds involved, by species; 4) the dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.
- **Shipping** – No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Unlawful Posting of State or Federal Land (MCA 45-8-115) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly post land that is under the ownership or control of the state or federal government to restrict access or use of state or federal land.

Waste of Game (MCA 87-6-205)

Wanton Waste – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his/her actual custody. **Note**: Under Montana regulations, it is unlawful to waste any part of a game bird suitable for food, which includes the breasts of birds the size of a teal duck or smaller and the breasts and thighs of all birds larger than a teal duck. This is more restrictive than federal regulations.

Whooping Cranes – Whooping cranes are protected by law. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take this bird. If a whooping crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612. For more information on distinguishing sandhill cranes and waterfowl from the protected, endangered whooping crane, you may go to the following website:

fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/cranes.php

General Information

Duck Identification – Most FWP regional offices have free waterfowl ID guides. An electronic version of this guide (Waterfowl Identification in the Central Flyway) and other duck ID information, including a video guide to identifying ducks by wings, can be found at: **https://centralflyway.org/education/**

Eurasian Collared Doves – An exotic species now found throughout much of Montana, especially in and near cities and towns. They are:

- An unprotected species, as designated by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, that may be taken without license, season, or limit. They do not count against a hunter's mourning dove limit
- Different from a mourning dove in that they are larger, have a rounded tail rather than a pointed one, and they have a black ring around the back of the neck

Reporting Banded Birds – Internet reporting of bird bands is encouraged and may be easily done by going to: **www.reportband.gov**. In most cases, you will quickly receive information on when and where a bird was banded.

Waterfowl Information – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service site **(fws.gov/birds/index.php)** has links to information about waterfowl and other birds. In about mid-August, it will have the waterfowl status report.

Hunter Land Access

Hunters, it is your responsibility to know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply.

Fishing Access Sites – Many of Montana's Fishing Access Sites (FAS) offer hunting opportunities, however, certain restrictions may apply such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Refer to the Fishing Access Site website at **myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/explore** for site specific information, opportunities and restrictions.

Montana State Parks – Some of Montana's State Parks provide hunting opportunities; however, certain restrictions may apply, such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Contact the specific park and/or refer to the Montana State Park website at **stateparks.mt.gov** for site specific information regarding hunting opportunities and restrictions.

Federal Land Access

- National Parks are closed to hunting.
- National Wildlife Refuges - More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges or

Federal Waterfowl Production Areas open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations visit: **www.fws.gov/refuges refugeLocatorMaps/Montana** or inquire at the local refuge office.

- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local Federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

Indian Reservations – Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations. State regulations apply to deeded land and the Bighorn River within the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information, call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-883-2888 ext 7200.

Railroad Access – Railroads and railroad rights-of-way are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad. Consult the individual railroad for details.

State School Trust Lands

- A Conservation License provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to lawfully accessible state school trust lands.
- Overnight (2-night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a lawful access point.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on roads designated as open.
- Firearms may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of inhabited dwellings or outbuildings on state trust lands without permission of the inhabitant.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits.
- Additional information is available from FWP or contact DNRC at (406) 444-2074.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), which provide big game winter range, are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 01, whichever is later to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

- Exception: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. From November 11 through the remainder of hunting season, that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.
- Exception: Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.
- Canyon Ferry WMA designated access gates for Ponds 2, 3 and 4 will be opened at noon the day prior to the opening of the Youth and General Waterfowl Seasons.

Stream Access – Migratory game bird hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is lawful. However, landowner permission must be obtained to hunt or retrieve on private lands adjacent to waterways.

Statewide Closures

Region 2: Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

Region 3: Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Region 3: South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¾ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W. This area is closed to the hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area.

Region 3: Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure: Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

Region 4: Freezout Wildlife Management Area: (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the general waterfowl season. From the opening of the waterfowl season through November 19, no hunting, access or harassment of wildlife will be allowed except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area. This area will then reopen for all hunting from November 20 to the end of the season.

Region 4: Missouri River (Cascade County): The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

Region 6: McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17 20, 21, T36N, R15E.

Region 6: Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N, R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

Region 6, Sands Lake (Hill County): SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

Region 7: Treasure & Rosebud counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars.

Statewide- Snipe, Mourning Dove, and Sandhill Crane

License	Quota	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
Common (Wilson's) Snipe				
-	-	Sept 1-Dec 16	8 daily and 24 in possession	
Mourning Dove				
-	-	Sept 1-Oct 30	15 daily and 45 in possession	It is unlawful to shoot mourning doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.
Sandhill Crane Special Drawing License All sandhill crane hunting in the Pacific Flyway and in Wheatland, Meagher, Carbon and Golden Valley counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 is by special license only. Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License. Hunters may apply for a crane special license online at fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 24, 2020. Applicants may apply for only one area and must specify the hunting area for which they are applying.				
280-01	5	Sept 1-Oct 30	1 Sandhill Crane	Only valid in Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County.
Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County: those portions of Deer Lodge County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the intersection of I-90 and Highway 273, then westerly along Highway 273 to the junction of Highway 1, then southeast along said highway to Highway 275 at Opportunity, then east along said highway to East Side County Road, then north along said road to Perkins Lake, then west on said lane to I-90, then north on said interstate to the junction of Highway 273, the point of beginning. Except for sections 13 and 24, T5N, R10W; and Warm Springs Pond number 3.				
284-01	40	Sept 1-Oct 30	2 Sandhill Cranes	Only valid in Ovando-Helmville area. Successful applicants will receive two 284-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
Ovando-Helmville area: that portion of the Pacific Flyway, located in Powell County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the junction of State Routes 141 and 200, then west along Route 200 to its intersection with the Blackfoot River at Russell Gates Fishing Access Site (Powell-Missoula County line), then southeast along said river to its intersection with the Ovando-Helmville Road (County Road 104) at Cedar Meadows Fishing Access Site, then south and east along said road to its junction with State Route 271 (at Main Street in Helmville), then east along said route to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its junction with State Route 200, the point of beginning.				
380-01	120	Sept 1-Oct 30	2 Sandhill Cranes	Only valid in Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison counties. Successful applicants will receive two 380-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
390-01	25	Sept 1-Oct 30	2 Sandhill Cranes	Only valid in Broadwater County.
586-01	70	Sept 1-Oct 30	2 Sandhill Cranes	Only valid in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90. Successful applicants will receive two 586-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
599-00	20	Sept 1-Oct 30	2 Sandhill Cranes	Only valid in Carbon County. Successful applicants will receive two Sandhill Crane licenses.
Sandhill Crane Over-the-Counter Permit Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway outside of the special license drawing areas must obtain a free permit available from all statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and license providers.				
-	-	Oct 3-Nov 29	3 daily and 9 in possession	**Exception 1:** That area south and west of I-90 is closed to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes except for Carbon County with the 599-00 license. **Exception 2:** Hunting in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 can only be done with a 586-01 license.

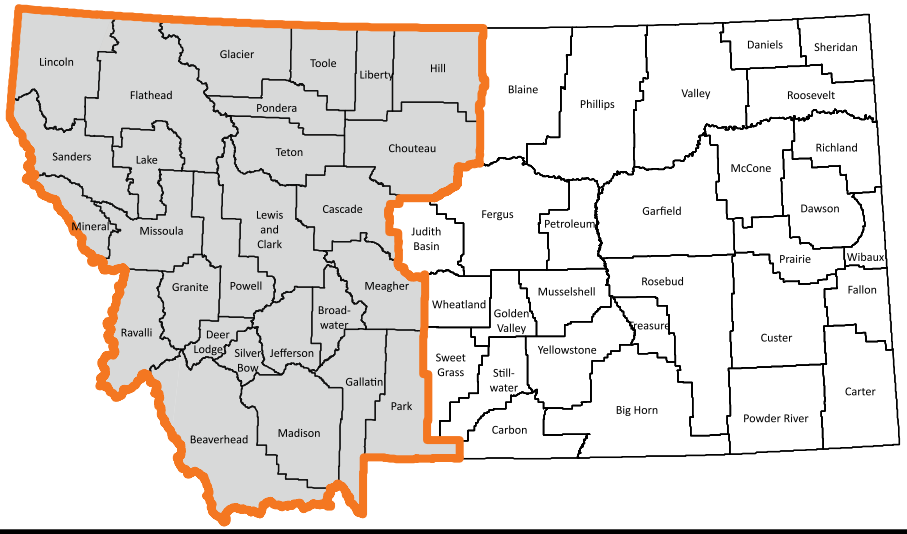
Statewide- Waterfowl

Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season
September 26-27, 2020 – Statewide

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. The bag limit, shooting hours, and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season.
Exception: Canyon Ferry WMA: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon September 26 and 27.

Pacific Flyway - Waterfowl

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.



Pacific Flyway

Ducks- Including Mergansers	
Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks and 2 scaup. Scaup season closes Dec 27. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.	
Sep 26 - Sep 27	Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
Oct 3 - Dec 27	Standard bag limit. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Dec 28 - Jan 10	Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Jan 16 - Jan 20	Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Coots	
Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession	
Sep 26 - Sep 27	Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
Oct 3- Jan 10	Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Jan 16 - Jan 20	Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Geese	
Daily limit: 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 4 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.	
Sep 26 - Sep 27	Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
Oct 3- Jan 10	Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Jan 16 - Jan 20	Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Falconry-Ducks (including Mergansers), Coots and Geese	
Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season.	
Oct 3- Jan 10	See Exceptions for Ducks, Coots & Geese.
Jan 16 - Jan 20	See Exceptions for Ducks, Coots & Geese.

Exceptions – Pacific Flyway Ducks, Coots & Geese

Exception 1: Canyon Ferry (see legal description below): Oct 3 - Oct 9, 2020, and the special two-day youth waterfowl season Sep 26-27, 2020, hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, Oct 10, 2020 until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply.

Exception 2: Cochrane Reservoir, Morony Reservoir, and Ryan Reservoir in Cascade County are closed to waterfowl hunting.

Canyon Ferry Legal Description: Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson- Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SW corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

Pacific Flyway (continued)

Swan-Hunting by Drawing Only

License	Quota	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
481-20	500	Oct 10 - Dec 1	1 swan	Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders while hunting the dikes at Freezout.

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera counties by special swan permit only. Those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation are closed to hunting of all swans. The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting. Hunting only by special permit. Application deadline is July 24. Must apply in only one flyway. Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License.

Hunters may apply for a swan special license online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 24, 2020.

72-Hour reporting requirement:

Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan. Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana FWP by:

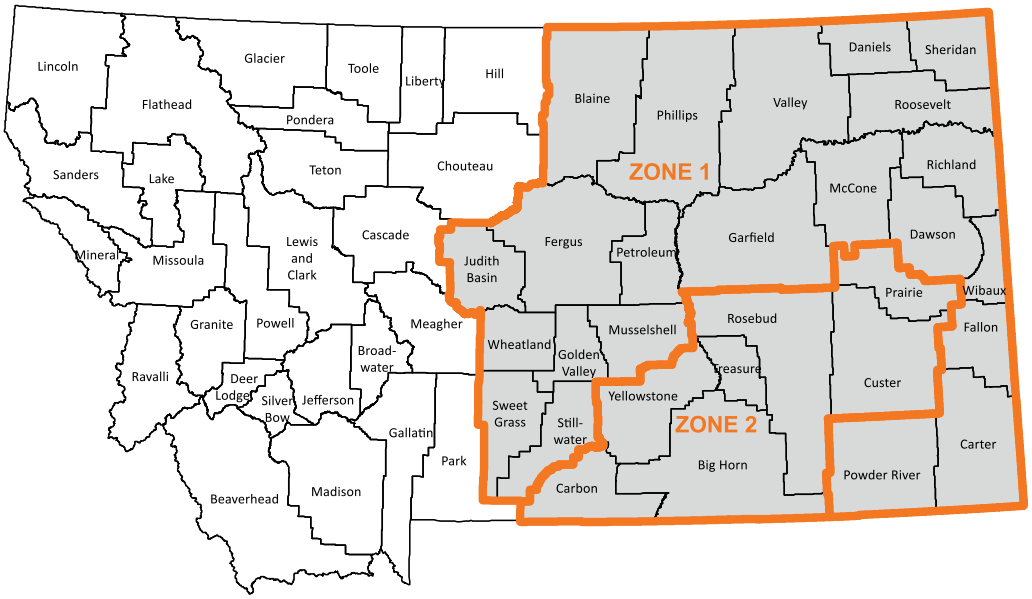
1) deposit in regular US mail or,
2) deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout WMA or,
3) submitting the card to any FWP office.

To learn about Montana's Migratory Bird Wetland Program and how your state "duck stamp" dollars are spent, go to:

fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/wildlife/programs/migratoryBirds

Central Flyway - Waterfowl

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.



Zone 1 (Ducks, Coots & Geese): Includes Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland and Wibaux counties.

Zone 2 (Ducks, Coots & Geese): Includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone counties.

Central Flyway

Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Bag limit: The daily bag limit is 6 ducks or mergansers. The daily bag limit may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be hens, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks and 1 scaup. During the first 9 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Oct 3 - Oct 11), the daily bag may include 2 additional blue-winged teal. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sep 26 - Sept 27 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under	Sep 26 - Sept 27 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under
Oct 3 - Jan 7	Oct 3 - Oct 11
	Oct 24 - Jan 19

Coots

Bag Limit: 15 daily. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sep 26 - Sept 27 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under	Sep 26 - Sept 27 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under
Oct 3 - Jan 7	Oct 3 - Oct 11
	Oct 24 - Jan 19

Geese

Daily limit: 20 white geese (snow, blue, ross's) and 5 dark geese (all other geese).
The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sep 26 - Sept 27 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under	Sep 26 - Sept 27 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under
Oct 3 - Jan 10	Oct 3 - Oct 11
Jan 16 - Jan 20	Oct 24 - Jan 27

Falconry: Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sep 23 - Jan 7	Sep 23 - Oct 11
	Oct 24 - Jan 19

Falconry: Geese

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Oct 3 - Jan 10	Oct 3 - Oct 11
Jan 16 - Jan 20	Oct 24 - Jan 27

Tundra Swan-Hunting by Special License Only

License	Quota	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
684-20	500	Oct 3 - Jan 7	1 tundra swan	Application deadline is July 24. Must apply in only one flyway.

Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License. Hunters may apply for a swan special license online at fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 24, 2020. Surplus Central Flyway swan special licenses will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 20, either online, or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. For online requests, allow time for a permit, letter, swan tag, and bill card to be mailed to you.

Lethality Table

The Lethality Table below is intended to help hunters select the most appropriate nontoxic shotshell load for the type of hunting they intend to do. It provides field-tested data collected and analyzed by Tom Roster and the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program. Montana was an active member of this program. The database is comprised only of birds taken with one shot at known ranges under normal hunting conditions. All birds were necropsied and x-rayed from two angles. Hunters can find information in the table on shot-size selection, maximum effective range for various pellets on different sized birds, and the pattern density needed to achieve a lethal load and cleanly kill a bird.

It takes a combination of penetration and pattern density to effectively harvest a bird. Testing by Tom Roster showed that pellets need to penetrate at least ⅔ to ¾ of the way through a bird's body in order to result in a clean kill. The pellets need to strike a lethal area (heart, lungs, spinal column, brain). Also required is a pattern density that, when placed on the front half of a bird, will result in sufficient pellets striking those areas. Developing the shooting skills needed to consistently hit the targeted bird in the front half of the body is a responsibility of an ethical hunter.

Nontoxic shot is not required for webless migratory birds (sandhill crane, mourning dove and snipe) except on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please inquire at the local refuge office.

TOM ROSTER'S 2016 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE©

Proven Nontoxic Loads For Waterfowl, Doves, & Upland Game Birds[1] ***Vel. Range Tested: 1,225 – 1,700 FPS*** **ACTIVITY**	Observed Hunters' Typical Shooting Range During Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY At The Distances Listed In The Second Column	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) at Distance (Given n Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and are harder than traditional steel pellets.
Large Geese At Long Range Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65 50-70	Steel BBB to T HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full	
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Medium/Small Geese Long Range Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65 50-65	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full	
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel 2 to BB HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Light Modified, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Large Ducks At Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65 45-65	Steel 2 to 1 HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	Improved Modified, Full Improved Modified, Full	
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	¾ - 1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds) I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Medium Ducks Over Decoys Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 3 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	115-120 115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds) I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Small Ducks Over Decoys Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 4 HEVI-Shot 6	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	135-145 135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds) Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50 20-50	Steel 3 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	2-3 2-3	90-95 90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds) I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4; HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full	
Mourning Doves	20-45 20-45	Steel 8 to 7 HEVI-Shot 7½	⅝ -¾ 3/4	1-2 1-2	200-210 200-210	IC-8's/LM-7's (20-30 Yds);Mod>30 Yd I.C. (20-30 Yds); Light Mod (30-45 Yd)	
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 8 to 7	⅝ -¾	1-2	200-210	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified	
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full	

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the lethality data bases for certain of the 16 U.S. steel vs lead waterfowl & dove shooting tests published between 1968 & 2014 & one steel-only pheasant shooting test (1999) plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP Org.

Note: Steel #BBB (.190") & HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; steel #2 & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants; & steel 7's (.100") the best all-around performance for taking doves.

[1]These findings are derived from testing 2¾" 28 gauge; 3" 20 ga.; 2¾", 3" & 3½" 12 ga.; & 3½" 10 ga. steel loads; plus 2¾" 28 ga.; 2¾" & 3" 20 ga.; and 2¾" & 3" 12 ga. HEVI-Shot loads.

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2020 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours for the taking of Webless and Migratory Game Birds begin one-half hour before sunrise and **end at sunset** each day of the hunting season. (Do not use times from other sources). The zones below are groups of counties and do not refer to hunting zones.

ZONE 1

INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders counties

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:56	8:14	7:36	7:14	7:19	5:19	8:01	4:49	8:21	4:59
2	6:58	8:12	7:37	7:12	7:21	5:18	8:02	4:49	8:21	5:00
3	6:59	8:10	7:38	7:10	7:22	5:16	8:04	4:48	8:21	5:01
4	7:00	8:08	7:40	7:09	7:24	5:15	8:05	4:48	8:21	5:02
5	7:02	8:06	7:41	7:07	7:25	5:13	8:06	4:48	8:21	5:03
6	7:03	8:04	7:42	7:05	7:27	5:12	8:07	4:48	8:21	5:04
7	7:04	8:02	7:44	7:03	7:28	5:11	8:08	4:48	8:20	5:05
8	7:05	8:00	7:45	7:01	7:30	5:09	8:09	4:47	8:20	5:06
9	7:07	7:58	7:46	6:59	7:31	5:08	8:10	4:47	8:20	5:07
10	7:08	7:56	7:48	6:57	7:33	5:07	8:11	4:47	8:19	5:09
11	7:09	7:54	7:49	6:55	7:34	5:06	8:12	4:47	8:19	5:10
12	7:11	7:52	7:51	6:53	7:36	5:04	8:13	4:47	8:18	5:11
13	7:12	7:50	7:52	6:51	7:37	5:03	8:13	4:48	8:18	5:12
14	7:13	7:48	7:53	6:50	7:38	5:02	8:14	4:48	8:17	5:14
15	7:15	7:46	7:55	6:48	7:40	5:01	8:15	4:48	8:17	5:15
16	7:16	7:44	7:56	6:46	7:41	5:00	8:16	4:48	8:16	5:16
17	7:17	7:42	7:58	6:44	7:43	4:59	8:16	4:49	8:15	5:18
18	7:18	7:40	7:59	6:42	7:44	4:58	8:17	4:49	8:14	5:19
19	7:20	7:38	8:00	6:41	7:46	4:57	8:18	4:49	8:14	5:21
20	7:21	7:36	8:02	6:39	7:47	4:56	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:22
21	7:22	7:34	8:03	6:37	7:48	4:55	8:19	4:50	8:12	5:23
22	7:24	7:32	8:05	6:35	7:50	4:55	8:19	4:51	8:11	5:25
23	7:25	7:30	8:06	6:34	7:51	4:54	8:20	4:51	8:10	5:26
24	7:26	7:28	8:08	6:32	7:52	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:09	5:28
25	7:28	7:26	8:09	6:30	7:54	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:08	5:29
26	7:29	7:24	8:11	6:29	7:55	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:07	5:31
27	7:30	7:22	8:12	6:27	7:56	4:51	8:21	4:54	8:06	5:32
28	7:32	7:20	8:13	6:25	7:58	4:51	8:21	4:55	8:05	5:34
29	7:33	7:18	8:15	6:24	7:59	4:50	8:21	4:56	8:04	5:35
30	7:34	7:16	8:16	6:22	8:00	4:50	8:21	4:57	8:03	5:37
31			8:18	6:21			8:21	4:58	8:01	5:38

ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole counties.

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:49	8:06	7:28	7:07	7:11	5:12	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:52
2	6:50	8:04	7:29	7:05	7:12	5:10	7:54	4:42	8:12	4:53
3	6:51	8:02	7:30	7:03	7:14	5:09	7:55	4:42	8:12	4:54
4	6:53	8:00	7:32	7:01	7:15	5:08	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55
5	6:54	7:58	7:33	6:59	7:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56
6	6:55	7:56	7:34	6:57	7:18	5:05	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57
7	6:57	7:54	7:36	6:55	7:20	5:04	7:59	4:41	8:11	4:58
8	6:58	7:52	7:37	6:53	7:21	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	4:59
9	6:59	7:50	7:38	6:51	7:22	5:01	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:00
10	7:00	7:48	7:40	6:49	7:24	5:00	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02
11	7:02	7:46	7:41	6:48	7:25	4:59	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:03
12	7:03	7:44	7:42	6:46	7:27	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:04
13	7:04	7:42	7:44	6:44	7:28	4:56	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05
14	7:05	7:40	7:45	6:42	7:30	4:55	8:05	4:41	8:08	5:07
15	7:07	7:38	7:47	6:40	7:31	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:08
16	7:08	7:36	7:48	6:38	7:33	4:53	8:07	4:41	8:07	5:09
17	7:09	7:34	7:49	6:37	7:34	4:52	8:07	4:42	8:06	5:11
18	7:11	7:32	7:51	6:35	7:35	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:12
19	7:12	7:30	7:52	6:33	7:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:13
20	7:13	7:28	7:54	6:31	7:38	4:49	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:15
21	7:14	7:26	7:55	6:30	7:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:16
22	7:16	7:24	7:56	6:28	7:41	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:18
23	7:17	7:22	7:58	6:26	7:42	4:47	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:19
24	7:18	7:20	7:59	6:24	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:00	5:21
25	7:20	7:19	8:01	6:23	7:45	4:45	8:11	4:46	7:59	5:22
26	7:21	7:17	8:02	6:21	7:46	4:45	8:12	4:47	7:58	5:24
27	7:22	7:15	8:04	6:20	7:47	4:44	8:12	4:47	7:57	5:25
28	7:24	7:13	8:05	6:18	7:49	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:56	5:27
29	7:25	7:11	8:06	6:16	7:50	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:28
30	7:26	7:09	8:08	6:15	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:50	7:54	5:30
31			8:09	6:13			8:12	4:51	7:53	5:31

ZONE 3

INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone counties

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:38	7:56	7:17	6:56	7:01	5:00	7:44	4:30	8:04	4:39
2	6:39	7:54	7:19	6:54	7:03	4:59	7:45	4:30	8:04	4:40
3	6:40	7:52	7:20	6:52	7:04	4:58	7:46	4:29	8:04	4:42
4	6:42	7:50	7:21	6:50	7:06	4:56	7:47	4:29	8:04	4:43
5	6:43	7:48	7:23	6:48	7:07	4:55	7:48	4:29	8:03	4:44
6	6:44	7:46	7:24	6:46	7:09	4:53	7:49	4:29	8:03	4:45
7	6:46	7:44	7:26	6:44	7:10	4:52	7:50	4:28	8:03	4:46
8	6:47	7:42	7:27	6:42	7:12	4:51	7:51	4:28	8:03	4:47
9	6:48	7:40	7:28	6:40	7:13	4:49	7:52	4:28	8:02	4:48
10	6:50	7:38	7:30	6:39	7:15	4:48	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:50
11	6:51	7:36	7:31	6:37	7:16	4:47	7:54	4:28	8:01	4:51
12	6:52	7:34	7:33	6:35	7:18	4:46	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:52
13	6:54	7:32	7:34	6:33	7:19	4:44	7:56	4:28	8:00	4:53
14	6:55	7:30	7:35	6:31	7:21	4:43	7:57	4:29	8:00	4:55
15	6:56	7:28	7:37	6:29	7:22	4:42	7:57	4:29	7:59	4:56
16	6:57	7:26	7:38	6:27	7:24	4:41	7:58	4:29	7:58	4:57
17	6:59	7:24	7:40	6:26	7:25	4:40	7:59	4:29	7:58	4:59
18	7:00	7:22	7:41	6:24	7:26	4:39	7:59	4:30	7:57	5:00
19	7:01	7:20	7:42	6:22	7:28	4:38	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:02
20	7:03	7:18	7:44	6:20	7:29	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:03
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22	7:05	7:14	7:47	6:17	7:32	4:36	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:06
23	7:07	7:12	7:48	6:15	7:33	4:35	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:07
24	7:08	7:10	7:50	6:13	7:35	4:34	8:02	4:33	7:52	5:09
25	7:09	7:08	7:51	6:12	7:36	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:50	5:10
26	7:11	7:06	7:53	6:10	7:37	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:49	5:12
27	7:12	7:04	7:54	6:08	7:39	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:48	5:13
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30	7:16	6:58	7:59	6:04	7:42	4:31	8:04	4:38	7:45	5:18
31			8:00	6:02			8:04	4:39	7:44	5:19

ZONE 4

INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux counties

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:24	7:41	7:03	6:42	6:46	4:48	7:27	4:18	7:47	4:28
2	6:26	7:39	7:04	6:40	6:47	4:46	7:28	4:18	7:47	4:29
3	6:27	7:37	7:05	6:38	6:49	4:45	7:29	4:17	7:47	4:30
4	6:28	7:35	7:07	6:36	6:50	4:43	7:30	4:17	7:47	4:31
5	6:29	7:33	7:08	6:34	6:51	4:42	7:31	4:17	7:47	4:32
6	6:31	7:31	7:09	6:32	6:53	4:41	7:32	4:17	7:46	4:33
7	6:32	7:29	7:11	6:30	6:54	4:39	7:33	4:17	7:46	4:34
8	6:33	7:27	7:12	6:29	6:56	4:38	7:34	4:16	7:46	4:35
9	6:34	7:25	7:13	6:27	6:57	4:37	7:35	4:16	7:45	4:36
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11	6:37	7:22	7:16	6:23	7:00	4:34	7:37	4:16	7:45	4:39
12	6:38	7:20	7:17	6:21	7:02	4:33	7:38	4:17	7:44	4:40
13	6:40	7:18	7:19	6:19	7:03	4:32	7:39	4:17	7:44	4:41
14	6:41	7:16	7:20	6:17	7:04	4:31	7:40	4:17	7:43	4:43
15	6:42	7:14	7:22	6:16	7:06	4:30	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:44
16	6:43	7:12	7:23	6:14	7:07	4:29	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:45
17	6:45	7:10	7:24	6:12	7:09	4:28	7:42	4:18	7:41	4:47
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21	6:50	7:02	7:30	6:05	7:14	4:24	7:44	4:19	7:38	4:52
22	6:51	7:00	7:31	6:03	7:16	4:23	7:45	4:20	7:37	4:54
23	6:52	6:58	7:33	6:02	7:17	4:23	7:45	4:21	7:36	4:55
24	6:54	6:56	7:34	6:00	7:18	4:22	7:45	4:21	7:35	4:56
25	6:55	6:54	7:36	5:58	7:19	4:21	7:46	4:22	7:34	4:58
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27	6:58	6:50	7:38	5:55	7:22	4:20	7:46	4:23	7:32	5:01
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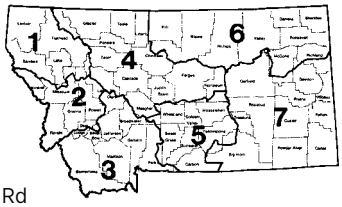
29	7:00	6:46	7:41	5:52	7:25	4:19	7:47	4:25	7:30	5:04
30	7:01	6:44	7:43	5:51	7:26	4:19	7:47	4:26	7:29	5:05
31			7:44	5:49			7:47	4:27	7:27	5:07

Contacts

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters
1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,
Helena, MT 59620-0701 ..... **406-444-2535**
Hunter Education **406-444-9948**
Wildlife Division **406-444-2612**
Enforcement Division **406-444-2452**
Special Drawings for deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat **406-444-2950**
Licensing for Resident and Nonresident fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds, black bear, and mountain lion **406-444-2535**
Nonresident mailing list for deer and elk big game combination licenses and regulations **406-444-2950**
Montana State Parks **406-444-3750**
Hearing Impaired (use Montana Relay) ..... **7-1-1** or **1-800-253-4091**



REGION 1
490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501

REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

REGION 3
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
(406) 577-7900

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave West
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 495-3260

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)
333 Airport Rd, Ste. 1
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-4658

REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

REGION 6
1 Airport Rd
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

REGION 7
352 I-94 Business Loop
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 234-0900

Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana State Agencies
Agriculture
406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters
406-841-2300
Livestock
406-444-7323
State Lands (DNRC)
406-444-2074
Tourism
406-841-2870

Federal Agencies
US Department of Interior (USDI)
202-208-3100
USDI Fish & Wildlife Service
406-449-5225
USDA Forest Service
406-329-3511

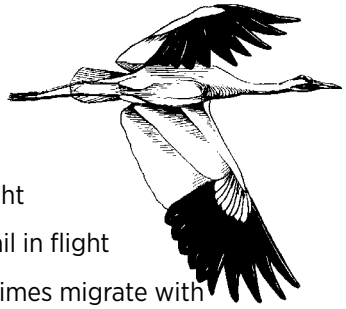
Federal Agencies continued
USDI Bureau of Land Management
406-896-5000
National Weather Service
406-329-4840 (Missoula)

Tribal Governments
Blackfeet Reservation
406-338-7276
Crow Reservation
406-638-2179
Flathead Reservation
406-883-2888 ext 7200
Fort Belknap
406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation
406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne Reservation
406-477-6526
Rocky Boy Reservation
406-395-4207

Please report the band number, location and date shot for any banded migratory game bird that you harvest to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at
www.reportband.gov

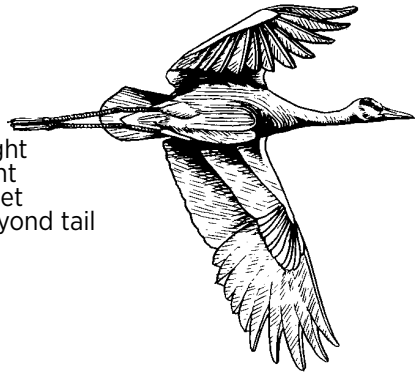
If a Whooping Crane is sighted please call – 406-444-2612

Whooping Cranes



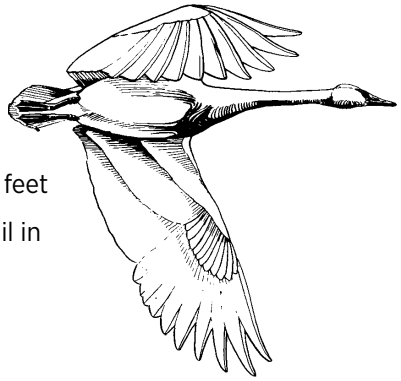
- White with black wingtips
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with Sandhill Cranes

Sandhill Cranes



- Gray, with dark wingtips
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds

Swans



- All white
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: over 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10

Snow Geese

- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds

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