

CHAPTER 91
MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

571—91.1(481A) Duck hunting.

91.1(1) *Zone boundaries.* Zone boundaries are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department of natural resources' (department's) website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 1 "Waterfowl Hunting Zones."

91.1(2) *Season dates - north zone.* Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 30 and run for seven days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 13 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(3) *Season dates - central zone.* Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest October 6 and run for seven days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 20 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(4) *Season dates - south zone.* Special September teal season: September 1 through September For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest October 13 and run for seven days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 27 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(5) *Bag limit.* Bag limits for all species are as adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The daily bag limit for scaup will be one for the first 15 days of the duck hunting season and two for the remaining 45 days.

91.1(6) *Possession limit.* For the special September teal season and for all ducks: Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

91.1(7) *Shooting hours.* For the special September teal season: Shooting hours are sunrise to sunset each day. For all ducks: Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

571—91.2(481A) Coots (split season).

91.2(1) Same as duck season dates and shooting hours.

91.2(2) Bag and possession limits. Daily bag limit is 15 and possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

571—91.3(481A) Goose hunting.

91.3(1) *Zone boundaries.* Zone boundaries are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 1 "Waterfowl Hunting Zones."

91.3(2) *Season dates - north zone.* For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 23 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open on the Saturday nearest October 13 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 13 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(3) *Season dates - central zone.* For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 30 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open on the Saturday nearest October 20 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 20 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(4) *Season dates - south zone.* For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin on the Saturday nearest October 6 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open on the Saturday nearest October 27 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 27 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(5) *Bag limit.* The daily bag limit for dark geese (Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant and any other geese that are not light geese) is five and may include no more than two Canada geese during the first segment of the statewide season and no more than three Canada geese during the remainder of the statewide season. The

daily bag limit for light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) is 20.

91.3(6) Possession limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit for Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. There is no possession limit for light geese.

91.3(7) Shooting hours. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset each day.

91.3(8) Light goose conservation order season. Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service beginning the day after the regular goose season closes and continuing until May 1.

a. Zone boundaries. Statewide.

b. Shooting hours. One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

c. Bag limit. No bag limit.

d. Possession limit. No possession limit.

e. Other regulations. Methods of take approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hunting light geese during the conservation order season shall be permitted.

91.3(9) Metropolitan goose hunting seasons and specified areas.

a. *Season dates.* The second Saturday in September for nine consecutive days.

b. *Bag limit.* Daily bag limit is five Canada geese.

c. *Possession limit.* Three times the daily bag limit.

d. *Specified areas.*

(1) Cedar Rapids/Iowa City. Areas are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 2 "Metropolitan Goose Hunting Areas."

(2) Des Moines. Areas are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 2 "Metropolitan Goose Hunting Areas."

(3) Cedar Falls/Waterloo. Areas are as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 2 "Metropolitan Goose Hunting Areas."

571—91.4(481A) Closed areas. Waterfowl and coots may be hunted statewide except in specific areas.

91.4(1) Waterfowl and coots. There shall be no open season for ducks, coots and geese as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 3 "Areas Closed to Waterfowl Hunting."

91.4(2) Canada geese. There shall be no open season on Canada geese in certain areas described as specified in the November 2023 Waterfowl Hunting Map Book published on the department's website (www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Migratory-Game-Birds), chapter 4 "Areas Closed to Canada Goose Hunting."

571—91.5(481A) Canada goose hunting within closed areas.

91.5(1) Closed areas. All areas are as described in subrule 91.4(2).

a. *Purpose.* The hunting of Canada geese in closed areas is being undertaken to allow landowners or tenants who farm in these closed areas to hunt Canada geese on land they own or farm in the closed area.

b. *Criteria.*

(1) Landowners and tenants who own or farm land in the closed areas will be permitted to hunt Canada geese in the closed areas.

(2) Landowners and those individuals named on the permit according to the criteria specified in subparagraph 91.5(1) "b"(9) will be permitted to hunt in the closed area. Tenants may obtain a permit instead of the landowner if the landowner transfers this privilege to the tenant. Landowners may choose, at their discretion, to include the tenant and those individuals of the tenant's family specified in subparagraph 91.5(1) "b"(9) on their permit. Assigned permits must be signed by both the permittee and the landowner assigning the permit.

(3) Landowners must hold title to, or tenants must farm by a rent/share/lease arrangement, at least eight acres inside the closed area to qualify for a permit.

(4) No more than one permit will be issued to corporations, estates, or other legal associations that jointly own land in the closed area. No individual may obtain more than two permits nor may an individual be named as a participant on more than two permits.

(5) Persons holding a permit can hunt with those individuals named on their permit as specified in subparagraph 91.5(1) “b”(9) on any property they own (or rent/share/lease in the case of tenants) in the closed area provided their activity complies with all other regulations governing hunting. Nothing herein shall permit the hunting of Canada geese on public property within the closed area.

(6) Persons hunting under this permit must adhere to all municipal, county, state and federal regulations that are applicable to hunting and specifically applicable to Canada goose hunting. Hunting as authorized by this rule shall not be used to stir or rally waterfowl.

(7) Hunting within the closed area will be allowed through October 31.

(8) Permit holders will be allowed to take eight Canada geese per year in the closed area.

(9) Permits will be issued only to individual landowners or tenants; however, permit holders must specify, when requesting a permit, the names of all other individuals qualified to hunt on the permit. Individuals qualified to hunt on the permit shall include the landowners or tenants and their spouses, domestic partners, parents, grandparents, children, children’s spouses, grandchildren, siblings and siblings’ spouses only.

c. Procedures.

(1) Permits can be obtained from the local conservation officer or wildlife unit headquarters within the closed area no later than 48 hours before the first Canada goose season opens. The permit will be issued to an individual landowner or tenant and must list the names of all individuals who may hunt with the permittee. The permit will also contain a description of the property covered by the permit. The permit must be carried by a member of the hunting party whose name is listed on the permit. Conservation officers will keep a record of permittees and locations of properties that are covered by permits.

(2) Eight consecutively numbered tags will be issued with each permit. Geese will be tagged around the leg immediately upon being reduced to possession and will remain tagged until delivered to the person’s abode.

(3) No one may attempt to take Canada geese under this permit unless the person possesses an unused tag for the current year.

(4) No landowner or tenant shall be responsible or liable for violations committed by other individuals listed on the permit issued to the landowner or tenant.

571—91.6(481A,483A) Youth waterfowl hunt. A special youth waterfowl hunt will be held the weekend before the first segment of the regular duck season in each duck hunting zone. Youth hunters must be residents of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A and less than 16 years old. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt and a state waterfowl stamp. Only the youth hunter may shoot ducks and coots. The adult may hunt for any game birds for which the season is open. The daily bag and possession limits are the same as for the regular waterfowl season, as defined in rule 571—91.1(481A). All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular waterfowl season apply to the youth hunt.

571—91.7(481A) Common snipe season. Open season for hunting common snipe shall be from the first Saturday in September through November 30. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 8 birds; possession limit 24 birds. Entire state open.

571—91.8(481A) Virginia rail and sora season. Open season for hunting Virginia rail and sora shall be from the first Saturday in September and continue for 70 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 12 and possession limit 36 in aggregate of both species. Entire state open.

571—91.9(481A) Woodcock season. Open season for hunting woodcock shall be from the first Saturday in October and continue for 45 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit 3; possession limit 9. Entire state open.

571—91.10(481A) Dove season. Open season for hunting mourning doves and Eurasian collared-doves shall begin on September 1 and continue for 90 consecutive days. Shooting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day. Daily bag limit is 15; possession limit is 45. The entire state is open.

571—91.11(481A) Crow season. Open season for hunting crows shall be from October 15 through November 30 and January 14 through March 31 of each year. No bag or possession limit. Entire state open.

571—91.12(481A) General. Migratory game birds may be taken only in accordance with the daily bag and possession limits during the open season and shooting hours as prescribed annually by the natural resource commission.

571—91.13(481A) Duck stamp. It shall be unlawful for any person who has attained the age of 16 years to take any migratory waterfowl (brant, wild ducks, geese, and swans) unless at the time of such taking that person has with them an unexpired federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (commonly called duck stamp), validated by the person's signature written across the face of the stamp in ink or an unexpired E-stamp version of the federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp.

571—91.14(481A) Hunting methods. Migratory game birds may be taken by any method except those prohibited in this rule. No person shall take migratory game birds (brant, wild ducks, geese, rails, coots, woodcock, and snipe):

91.14(1) 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;

91.14(2) 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;

91.14(3) On all lands and waters of the state of Iowa while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This subrule shall not apply to the taking of woodcock.

91.14(4) From or by means or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;

91.14(5) From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-drive land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with the involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord;

91.14(6) 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 or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased: Provided, that a craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds. However, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power;

91.14(7) By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this subrule 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 ten consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;

91.14(8) By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds;

91.14(9) By means or 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; or

91.14(10) By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. As used in this subrule, "baited area" means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed. "Baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. However, nothing in this subrule shall prohibit:

a. The taking of all migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on or over standing crops, flooded standing

crops (including aquatics), flooded harvested croplands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting; and

b. The taking of all migratory game birds, except waterfowl, on or over any lands where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of valid agricultural operations or procedures.

91.14(11) By any of the methods or means prohibited in this rule unless such methods or means have been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the taking of light geese during special light goose-only seasons or light goose-only hunts.

571—91.15(481A) Restrictions applicable to possession, tagging, and record-keeping requirements.

91.15(1) No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place, where taken and either:

- a.* The person's automobile or principal means of land transportation; or
- b.* The person's personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or
- c.* A migratory bird preservation facility; or
- d.* A post office; or
- e.* A common carrier facility.

91.15(2) No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place other than at the person's personal abode, or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the person's address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

91.15(3) No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required under 91.15(2).

91.15(4) No migratory bird preservation facility shall:

- a.* Receive or have in custody any migratory game birds unless accurate records are maintained showing:
 - (1) The number of each species;
 - (2) The date such birds were received;
 - (3) The name and address of the person from whom such birds were received;
 - (4) The date such birds were disposed of;
 - (5) The name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered.

b. Destroy any records required to be maintained under this rule for period of one year following the last entry on the record.

c. No migratory bird preservation facility shall prevent any person authorized to enforce this part from entering such facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where such operations are being carried on.

571—91.16(481A) Transportation within the state or between states.

91.16(1) No person shall transport or ship any migratory game birds, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported or shipped from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

91.16(2) Reserved.

571—91.17(481A) Wounded, live migratory game birds.

91.17(1) Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit.

91.17(2) Wanton waste. No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this chapter without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird and include it in the daily bag limit.

571—91.18(481A) Harvest information program (HIP).

91.18(1), Each licensed hunter pursuing migratory game birds (brant, wild ducks, geese, rails, coots, snipe,

woodcock, doves or any other migratory game bird) shall carry proof that they have first registered with the HIP. Hunters must supply their name, address, and information on the number of migratory game birds taken during the previous year, or other information that may be requested.

91.17(2) The natural resource commission will develop methods for collecting information from hunters at the time they purchase their hunting license or prior to going hunting, either by written or electronic means, and develop a method for validating in the field that hunters have registered.