

2000-01 Hunting regulations

HIP Requirement for Migratory Bird Hunters

All migratory game bird hunters must be certified for the Harvest Information Program, or HIP for short. When you purchase a hunting license, you will be HIP certified by answering three simple questions.

HIP is a federally-mandated, national program that will enhance our migratory game bird management capabilities and help provide future hunting opportunities by furnishing more accurate harvest information. Some hunters will be selected later to provide information about their migratory game bird hunting activity.

DEFINITIONS

•Resident: A person who has lived continuously in Texas for more than six months immediately before applying for a license or any member of the U.S. Armed Forces (and their dependents) on active duty anywhere. Non-residents under 17 years of age are designated as residents for hunting license purposes.

•Non-resident: Any person who does not qualify as a resident.

•Youth: For the purposes of participation in Youth-Only hunting seasons for deer, turkey, squirrel and quail, any person 16 years of age or younger.

•Bait: Something used to lure any wildlife resource.

•Day: A 24-hour period of time that begins at midnight and ends at midnight.

•Legal Shotgun: Shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder, and incapable of holding more than three shells (shotguns capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so the gun's total capacity does not exceed three shells).

•Migratory Game Birds: Includes all wild species of ducks, geese, coot, rail, gallinules, snipe, woodcock, mourning doves, white-winged doves, white-tipped (white-fronted) doves and sandhill cranes.

•Daily Bag Limit: The maximum number of birds that can be possessed at one time.

•Sinkbox: A low floating device concealing a person below the surface of the water.

•Waterfowl: Includes ducks, geese and coots.

•Wildlife Resources: Any wild animal, wild bird and aquatic life.

•Permanent Residence: One's principle or ordinary home or dwelling place. This does not include one's temporary abode or dwelling such as a hunting/fishing club, or any club house, cabin, tent, or trailer house used as a hunting/fishing club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, fishing, pleasure, or business trip.

•Shooting Hours: From one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. During the Special White-winged Dove Season; noon to sunset.

•Shipping: Migratory game

birds may be shipped, but the package must be marked with the name and address of the sender, name and address of the receiver and the number of birds of each species contained in the package.

•Documentation: All harvested migratory birds not in the immediate possession of the person who killed them must be accompanied by a Wildlife Resource Document until the birds reach a cold storage/processing facility, taxidermist or the person's personal residence and are finally processed.

LAWFUL HUNTING MEANS & METHODS

Legal shotguns, archery equipment (except crossbows), falconry, dogs, artificial decoys and manual or mouth-operated bird calls are lawful.

Hunting is permitted in the open or from a blind or other type of concealment or from floating

craft (except a sinkbox) provided that all motion resulting from sail or motor has ceased. Sails must be furled and motor turned off before shooting starts.

All other means and methods are unlawful.

Vehicles: Animals and game birds not classified as migratory may be hunted from a motor vehicle, powerboat, sailboat or from any other floating device within the boundaries of private property or upon private water. No person may hunt any game bird or game animal on any part of the Texas public road system or public waters, except that migratory birds under certain circumstances may be hunted from a boat on public water. See the migratory game bird section for the exceptions.

Baiting: For game animals, non-game animals and game birds is lawful on private property, except for turkey in certain East Texas counties and migratory

game birds statewide. Decoys may be used to hunt game animals and game birds, except that no person may use live decoys when hunting migratory birds.

Nontoxic Shot: No person, while hunting waterfowl (ducks, geese and coots) anywhere in the state, may possess shotgun shells containing lead shot or loose lead shot for use in muzzleloaders. Approved nontoxic shot includes steel (including copper, nickel and zinc coated steel), bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron and any other material approved by the director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Species Identification: Except for doves, one fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to dressed migratory game birds while being transported between the place taken and the personal residence of the hunter, the personal residence of another person receiving the dressed birds, or a cold storage/processing facility.

One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory birds imported from Mexico.

Daily Bag and Possession: No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit of birds while in the field or while returning from the field to one's hunting camp, automobile or temporary lodging facility. For the first day of any season, the possession limit is the daily bag limit. Birds must reach the possessor's permanent residence and be finally processed before they are no longer considered part of the possession limit.

Dogs may be used to aid in the hunting of any game bird.

Important Limit: It is illegal to import migratory game birds belonging to another person. The number imported from Mexico may not exceed the export limit set by the Mexican state from which they were taken.

Federal Regulations: For (See Regulations, Page 8)

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