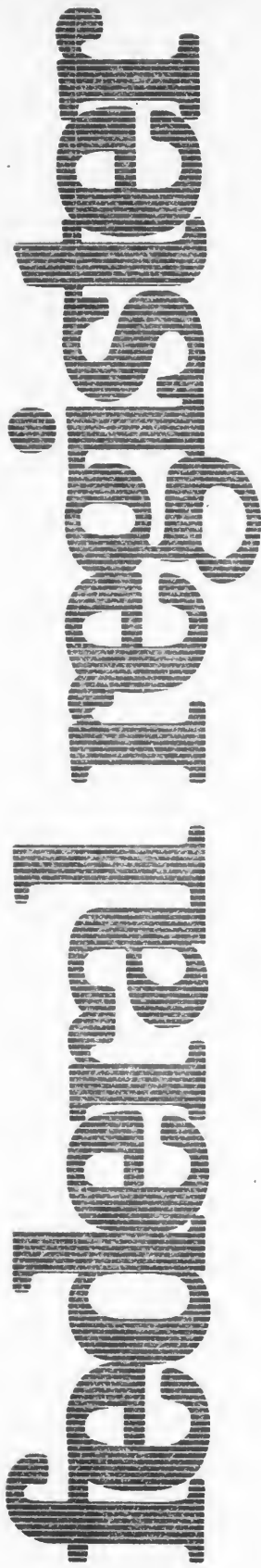

Tuesday
August 28, 1979



Part IV

**Department of the
Interior**

Fish and Wildlife Service

**Final Frameworks for Late Season
Migratory Bird Hunting**

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

50 CFR Part 20

Final Frameworks for Late Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule prescribes final frameworks, that is, the outer limits for dates and times when shooting may begin and end, and the numbers of birds which may be taken and possessed under late season migratory bird hunting regulations for the 1979-80 season. These seasons commence on or after September 29, 1979, and include most of those for waterfowl. The Service annually prescribes hunting regulations frameworks to the States. The effects of this final rule are to facilitate the selection of hunting seasons by the States and to establish late season migratory bird hunting regulations for the 1979-80 season.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 29, 1979.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John P. Rogers, Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, telephone 202-254-3207.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of July 3, 1918 (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), as amended, authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior, having due regard for the zones of temperature and for the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of flight of migratory game birds to determine when, to what extent, and by what means such birds or any part, nest, or egg thereof may be taken, hunted, captured, killed, possessed, sold, purchased, shipped, carried, exported, or transported.

In the annual process for developing migratory game bird hunting regulations, "early" seasons are separated from "late" seasons. Early seasons are those which may open before September 29 while late seasons open on or after September 29. Regulations are developed independently for early and late seasons. The early season regulations cover mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, gallinules, woodcock, common snipe, sea ducks in the Atlantic Flyway, teal in September in the Central and Mississippi Flyways, sandhill cranes in North and South Dakota, an early duck season opening in Iowa, doves in the Virgin Islands and Hawaii,

all migratory game birds in Puerto Rico and Alaska, and some extended falconry seasons. Late seasons include the general waterfowl seasons; special seasons for scaup and goldeneyes; extra scaup and teal in regular seasons; most sandhill crane seasons in the Central Flyway; coots, gallinules, and snipe in the Pacific Flyway; and other special falconry seasons.

Certain general procedures are followed in developing regulations for both the early and the late seasons. Initial regulatory proposals are first announced in mid-February, and opened to public comment. As additional information becomes available, and comments are received and considered to the initial proposals, supplemental proposed rulemakings are announced in the *Federal Register*. At the termination of the comment periods and following a public hearing, the Service develops and publishes the proposed frameworks for times of seasons, season lengths, shooting hours, daily bag and possession limits, and other regulatory restraints or options. Following another public comment period, and after consideration of additional comments, the Service publishes in the *Federal Register* the final frameworks. Using these frameworks, State conservation agencies select hunting season dates and offered options. States may select more restrictive seasons, limits, and options than those offered in the Service's frameworks. The final regulations, reflected in amendments to Subpart K of 50 CFR 20 then appear in the *Federal Register*, and become effective upon publication.

This year the process was implemented as follows. On February 15, 1979, the Service published for public comment in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 9928) proposals to amend 50 CFR 20, with a comment period ending May 16, 1979. That document dealt with the establishment of seasons, limits and shooting hours for migratory birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107 of Subpart K. On June 13, 1979, the Service published for public comment in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 34082) the second document in the series consisting of a supplemental proposed rulemaking dealing specifically with a number of supplemental or modified proposals arising from comments received on the initial proposals, or from new information.

On June 21, 1979, a public hearing was held in Washington, D.C., to review the status of mourning doves, woodcock, band-tailed pigeons, white-winged doves, and sandhill cranes. The meeting was announced in the *Federal Register*

on February 15, 1979 (44 FR 9928) and June 13, 1979 (44 FR 34082). Proposed hunting regulations for these species were discussed plus those for common snipe; rails; gallinules; migratory game birds in Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; mourning doves in Hawaii; September teal seasons in the Mississippi and Central Flyways; and early duck season in Iowa; special sea duck seasons in the Atlantic Flyway; and falconry seasons. Statements or comments were invited.

On June 28, 1979, the Service also published for public comment in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 37857) the third document in the series consisting of supplemental proposed rulemaking dealing specifically with proposed frameworks for early season migratory bird hunting regulations from which, when finalized, States may select season dates, shooting hours, and daily bag and possession limits for the 1979-80 season. On June 28, 1979, the Service published in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 37854) the fourth document in the series of proposed and final rulemakings dealing specifically with final frameworks for the 1979-80 season from which wildlife conservation agency officials in Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands could select season dates for hunting certain migratory birds in their respective jurisdictions during the 1979-80 season. On July 24, 1979, the Service published in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 43420) the fifth document in the series of proposed and final rulemakings dealing specifically with final frameworks for early season migratory game bird hunting regulations from which State wildlife conservation agency officials selected season dates and daily bag and possession limits for the 1979-80 early season.

On August 2, 1979, a public hearing was held in Washington, D.C., as announced in the *Federal Register* on February 15, 1979 (44 FR 9928) and June 13, 1979 (44 FR 34082) to review information on population status and proposed hunting regulations for waterfowl, coots, and gallinules; sandhill cranes in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Montana and Wyoming; common snipe in the Pacific Flyway; and special falconry regulations. Statements or comments were invited.

On August 8, 1979, the Service published in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 46462) the sixth document in the series of proposed and final rulemakings dealing specifically with a correction to the final frameworks published on July 24, 1979 (44 FR 43420) to include in the final frameworks a page of text

inadvertently omitted from that document.

On August 10, 1979, the Service published for comment in the Federal Register (44 FR 47246) the seventh document in the series of proposed and final rulemakings dealing specifically with proposed regulations frameworks for 1979-80 late hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds. On August 20, 1979, the Service published in the Federal Register (44 FR 48846) the eighth document in the series of proposed and final rulemakings dealing specifically with amending Subpart K of 50 CFR 20 to set open hunting seasons, certain closed areas, shooting and hawking hours and bag and possession limits for mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, woodcock, snipe, and gallinules; September teal seasons; sea ducks in certain defined areas of the Atlantic Flyway; ducks in late September in Iowa; sandhill cranes in designated portions of North Dakota and South Dakota; and migratory game birds in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

This final rulemaking document is the ninth in the series of proposed, supplemental, and final rulemakings for migratory game bird hunting regulations and deals specifically with final regulations frameworks for 1979-80 late hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds.

These final frameworks also reflect clarifications or corrections to the frameworks which were proposed in the Federal Register (44 FR 47246) dated August 10, 1979. These include: a restoration of the goose bag and possession limits in the Lac Qui Parle quota area of Minnesota to those effective during the 1978-79 season, clarification of the canvasback limits in North and South Dakota, and a minor change in the description of waterfowl zones in Massachusetts.

Review of Public Comments and the Service's Response

Various public comments on the proposed late season regulations have been considered during the regulatory development period. The Service replied to public comments on regulations proposed in the Federal Register (44 FR 9928) dated February 15, 1979, in the Federal Register (44 FR 34082) dated June 13, 1979. Subsequent public comments, including those made at the public hearing held in Washington, D.C., on August 2, 1979, were considered, and responded to in the Federal Register (44 FR 47246) dated August 10, 1979, which dealt with proposed frameworks for late season migratory bird hunting. That publication advised that additional

public comments on proposed late season frameworks would be considered through August 20, 1979.

Thirteen additional public comments were received by the Service through August 20, 1979. These originated from 3 Flyway Councils (one submitted two comments), 5 States, 2 sportsmen's clubs, a national conservation organization, and a law institute. The comments from the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils were received prior to the public hearing on proposed waterfowl regulations held in Washington, D.C., on August 2, 1979. They were again presented by the Councils at the public hearing. Most of the Councils' recommendations were responded to in the Federal Register (44 FR 47246) dated August 10, 1979, and are reflected in the final frameworks. Those recommendations which were not accepted by the Service were discussed in that or prior issues of the Federal Register.

The State conservation agencies of Arkansas and Missouri recommended regulatory wording designed to alleviate confusion about the waterfowl season applicable on the St. Francis River, which separates the two States. The boundary is poorly defined, and different hunting seasons are usually selected by Arkansas and Missouri. The two State agencies jointly recommended that the problem area be defined for regulatory purposes, and that the waterfowl season selected by Missouri also apply to the Arkansas portion of the St. Francis River.

Response. The Service concurs with the recommendations. The final frameworks define the area and provide that the waterfowl seasons selected by Missouri shall also apply to the defined Arkansas portion of the river.

Wisconsin opposed the proposal that the opening framework date for waterfowl seasons in the Upper Region of the Mississippi Flyway coincide with the Saturday closest to October 1. Wisconsin considers Saturday waterfowl season openings undesirable because of the heavy hunting pressure placed on local waterfowl and because of crowded hunting conditions. The State recommended that the option be offered only to States interested in the option, and that the change be on an experimental basis.

Response. The Service notes that the proposal was requested by the Upper Region of the Mississippi Flyway Council. States are not obligated to select Saturday opening dates if local situations favor other opening days.

A sportsmen's club in Mississippi urged that the hunting of Canada geese

at Sardis Lake (Reservoir) not be prohibited this year as the Service has proposed.

Response. Canada geese which winter at Sardis Lake are part of the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) which once wintered in southern parts of the Mississippi Flyway. Both the Service and the Mississippi Flyway Council believe it is desirable that MVP geese be encouraged to reoccupy former wintering areas in the southern part of the Mississippi Flyway. This is an objective of a management plan for MVP geese which has been approved by the Service and the Mississippi Flyway Council. As part of a cooperative effort to meet this objective, hunting of Canada geese is being suspended this season in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and southwestern Tennessee. It is believed important that complete protection be given to the remnant flocks of Canada geese which still winter in southern areas such as Sardis Reservoir.

A Michigan duck hunters' association recommended that the waterfowl season in Zones 2 and 3 of Michigan open on October 17, 1979.

Response. The Service establishes frameworks, or time periods, within which State conservation agencies may select hunting season dates. The selection of specific hunting dates within the framework is a State prerogative.

On August 20, 1979, the Institute for Public Representation (IPR), Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., submitted a comment on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders). The comment asserted that consultations and communications between the Service and the four flyway councils during preparation of the hunting regulations were contrary to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. I, and to several court decisions related to *ex parte* communications in informal rulemaking. Similar comments had been submitted by IPR on behalf of Defenders on May 16, 1979, and by Defenders themselves on January 17, 1979.

The Department's Associate Solicitor for Conservation and Wildlife responded to these assertions in a letter to Defenders dated May 7, 1979. This letter was published by the Service in the Federal Register of June 13, 1979 (44 FR 34082). The Associate Solicitor concluded that the flyway councils are not functioning as advisory committees and that the Service's contacts with the councils are in compliance with the requirements applicable to *ex parte* communications during informal rulemaking.

The advisory committee and *ex parte* questions were discussed again in a meeting held on August 20, 1979, between the Associate Solicitor and representatives from IPR and Defenders. A memorandum of this meeting has been placed in the public file for these regulations. At the meeting, the Associate Solicitor pointed out that procedural subjects such as advisory committee and *ex parte* communications might be dealt with more effectively in a rulemaking proceeding that is separate from the present proceedings being utilized to develop the substantive content of the hunting regulations. The Associate Solicitor then suggested that Defenders and IPR might wish to petition the Service for the issuance of such procedural rules. The Service agrees with the Associate Solicitor's suggestion.

A comment was received from Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) contending that black duck regulations were inconsistent with the status of the species based on winter counts and harvest levels. Defenders also contended that the limited data concerning breeding populations suggested a downward trend, and that information was lacking to support status quo regulations.

Response. The winter survey population index for black ducks shows a gradual but steady decline. However, the contention that this decline is related directly to hunting regulations and to the size of the black duck harvest is doubtful. Many factors, such as the unusually severe winters which occurred along the Atlantic Coast the past three years, affect black duck harvests, food availability, and distribution. Data in Service files show no correlation between size of black duck harvests and the subsequent winter survey index. The 1978-79 U.S. black duck harvest (343,000) increased 20 percent over the previous year, but was 14 percent below the average harvest (400,000) of the past 11 years. The 1978-79 harvest was slightly below the average harvest of the previous 4 seasons, a period of stable regulations for black duck daily bag and possession limits and season lengths. Harvests during this 4-year period ranged from a low of 281,000 to a high of 430,000, strongly suggesting that factors other than hunting regulations were affecting harvest size. The best and most voluminous waterfowl banding and harvest data available are for the mallard, the species most closely allied with the black duck. Recent studies by Anderson and Burnham (1975), based on an analysis of 700,000 mallard bandings,

failed to demonstrate a direct relationship between harvest levels and population survival rates. Defenders' implication that this relationship exists for black ducks as shown by winter survey indices is unsupported by available data.

Defenders expressed concern about breeding population data derived from surveys in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. While the 1979 population was lower than the previous year, it equaled or exceeded the average population for the previous 5-year period, and populations measured in the late 1950's and the early 1960's. This suggests that the breeding population in this portion of Maritime Canada is maintaining itself at a satisfactory level.

Defenders contends that data upon which to base a continuation of status quo regulations are inadequate, and were unavailable to them until late in the comment period. The Service is attempting to evaluate changes in black duck hunting regulations according to the plan detailed in an Environmental Assessment titled "Proposed Hunting Regulations on Black Ducks." A 4-year period of stabilized black duck hunting regulations is being conducted in conjunction with a major banding study to evaluate harvest rates and related matters of importance in managing the continental black duck population. Availability of an environmental assessment outlining this study was announced in the *Federal Register* dated July 8, 1976, at page 27987.

Twenty-two States, 5 Provinces, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are participating in the banding program. Over 25,000 bands have been placed on black ducks to date. The introduction of different regulations for black ducks at this time would negate much of the effort by these agencies to acquire better information upon which to base future black duck management plans, including regulatory measures. Based on data from previous years, there is no reason to believe that continuing this study to its completion will either jeopardize or adversely affect the black duck.

Virginia reiterated the Atlantic Flyway Council's request for a 15-day subseason during which a daily bag of 4 drake canvasbacks could be taken in "traditional" canvasback hunting areas of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Response. The Service considered proposal for a special canvasback season in the Atlantic Flyway and responded in the *Federal Register* dated February 15 (44 FR 9928), June 13 (44 FR 34082), and August 10 (44 FR 47246), 1979. The Service notes that population

objectives and harvest management strategies for the canvasback are guided by an Environmental Assessment titled "Proposed Hunting Regulation on Canvasback and Redhead Ducks," issued in August 1976. A special subseason for canvasbacks is not among the strategies listed in the EA. However, in the light of additional information accumulated since the EA was prepared, the Service believes it desirable to reassess population objectives and management strategies for canvasbacks, and intends to do so prior to the 1980-81 season. Part of this reassessment will involve evaluation of data from a canvasback banding program currently underway in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay. In reviewing the Atlantic Flyway Council proposal, note was made of the need for more detailed planning to evaluate effects of the proposed subseason. Recognizing that a proposal for an experimental season must meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedure Act, the Service reiterates its willingness to consider an experimental season in traditional hunting areas. Prior to the 1980-81 season, further consideration will be given to canvasback harvest regulations proposals that are supportive of an updated canvasback-redhead environmental assessment.

Steel Shot Regulations

Non-toxic shot requirements in some geographical areas apply to waterfowl regulations being finalized here. On July 17, 1979, the Service published in the *Federal Register* (44 FR 41461) final regulations regarding zones in all flyways in which shotshells loaded with steel shot will be required for waterfowl hunting in seasons commencing in 1979. Minor corrections to the final regulations appeared in the *Federal Register* dated August 10, 1979 (44 FR 47093). The intended effect of establishing these steel shot regulations is to reduce the number of waterfowl deaths caused by ingesting spent lead pellets.

The regulations appear under 50 CFR, §§ 20.21 and 20.106, and will also be summarized in the Service's regulations leaflets to be published late this summer.

NEPA Consideration

The "Final Environmental Statement for the Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (FES 75-54)" was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on June 6, 1975 and notice of availability was published in the *Federal Register* on June 13, 1975 (40

CFR 25241). A number of environmental assessments have been issued by the Service to supplement the above FES. Shooting hours, dove hunting in September, black ducks, canvasbacks and redheads, Atlantic Flyway brant, and greater snow geese are among the subjects of these assessments. The 1975 FES is now out of print but copies of the environmental assessments are available from the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Endangered Species Act Consideration

Section 7 of this act provides that, "The Secretary shall review other programs administered by him and utilized such programs in furtherance of the purposes of this Act," and "by taking such action necessary to insure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out * * * do not jeopardize the continued existence of such endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or modification of habitat of such species * * * which is determined to be critical."

As in the past, hunting regulations this year are designed, among other things, to remove or alleviate chances of conflict between seasons for migratory game birds and the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species.

The Service reviewed all migratory bird regulations frameworks being contemplated this year for the early seasons (season lengths, limits, shooting hours, and outside dates) within which States may select seasons for mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, woodcock, snipe, and gallinules; for September teal seasons (including the extra teal option during regular seasons), for sea ducks in certain defined areas of the Atlantic Flyway; for a portion of the regular duck season in Iowa to be taken in late September; for sandhill cranes in designated portions of North Dakota and South Dakota; and special falconry regulations. As a result of intra-Service Section 7 consultation, Acting Director Robert S. Cook concluded in a biological opinion dated July 9, 1979, that the proposed 1979-80 early season migratory bird hunting regulations are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the five Endangered species considered, or destroy or adversely modify their Critical Habitat or habitat that might be determined critical in the future. Several actions were recommended as means for furthering the conservation of listed species.

The proposed late season regulatory frameworks were likewise subjected to

careful study to insure that they complied with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Special attention was given the Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*), Everglade kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*), whooping crane (*Grus americanus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). A biological opinion reviewed and evaluated the population and habitat status and trends of these endangered species; factors affecting their status and welfare; management programs underway or planned to enhance the status of the species; and the impacts, if any, of the proposed late season hunting regulations. On August 21, 1979, Director Lynn A. Greenwalt concluded:

"Based on all the information available to me, it is my biological opinion that the migratory bird late hunting seasons are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the above listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of any designated Critical Habitat."

The Service's biological opinion resulting from its consultation under Section 7 is considered a public document and is available for inspection in the Office of Endangered Species and the Office of Migratory Bird Management, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Copies may also be supplied by mail upon request.

Authorship

The primary author of this final rule is Henry M. Reeves, Office of Migratory Bird Management, working under the direction of John P. Rogers, Chief.

Exception from Executive Order 12044 and 43 CFR Part 14

As discussed in the *Federal Register* dated February 15, 1979 (44 FR 9929), the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks has concluded that the ever decreasing time frames in the regulatory process are mandated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. The regulatory process simply has no remaining slack in its timetable between the accumulation of critical summer survey data and the publication of the revised sets of proposed rulemakings. Compliance with the determination of significance and regulatory analysis criteria established under Executive Order 12044 would simply not be possible if the fall hunting season deadlines are to be achieved.

Consequently, the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks has approved the exemption of these regulations from the procedures of

Executive Order 12044 and 43 CFR 14 which is provided for in section 6(b)(6) and § 14.3(f), respectively.

Regulations Promulgation

The rulemaking process for migratory game bird hunting, must, by its nature, operate under severe time constraints. However, the service is of the view that every attempt should be made to give the public the greatest possible opportunity to comment on the regulations. Thus, when the proposed rulemakings were published on February 15, June 13, June 28, and August 10, the Service established what it believed were the longest periods possible for public comment. In doing this, the Service recognized that at the periods' close, time would be of the essence. That is, if there were a delay in the effective date of these regulations after this final rulemaking, the Service is of the opinion that the States would have insufficient time to select their season dates, and bag limits; to communicate those selections to the Service, and finally to establish and publicize the necessary regulations and procedures to implement their decisions. The Service therefore finds that "good cause" exists, within the terms of 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) and these frameworks will, therefore, take effect immediately upon publication.

Accordingly, the Service prescribes the final frameworks setting forth the species to be hunted, daily bag and possession limits, season dates, shooting hours, and special closures from which State conservation agency officials may select open season dates. Upon receipt of season selections from State officials, the Service will publish in the *Federal Register* final rulemaking amending certain sections of subpart K of 50 CFR Part 20 to reflect seasons, limits and shooting hours for the contiguous United States for the 1979-80 season.

Final Regulations Frameworks for 1979-80 Late Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Secretary of the Interior has approved final frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting waterfowl, coots, and gallinules; sandhill cranes in parts of New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Montana, and Wyoming; and common snipe in the Pacific Flyway. Frameworks are summarized below. States may be more restrictive in selecting season regulations, but may not exceed the framework provisions.

General

States in the Pacific, Central and Mississippi Flyways may split their season for ducks or geese into two segments of equal or unequal lengths. States in the Atlantic Flyway may, in lieu of zoning, split their season for ducks or geese into two or three segments of equal or unequal lengths. Exceptions are noted in appropriate sections.

Shooting and hawking hours in all States, on all species, and for all seasons are ½ hour before sunrise until sunset, except that during September teal season the hours are sunrise until sunset.

States in the Mississippi and Central Flyways selecting neither a September teal season nor the point system may select an extra daily bag and possession limit of 2 and 4 blue-winged teal, respectively, for 9 consecutive days designated during the regular duck season. These extra limits are in addition to the regular duck bag and possession limits.

States in the Atlantic Flyway not selecting the point system may select an extra teal limit for 9 consecutive hunting days during the regular duck season of no more than 2 blue-winged teal or 2 green-winged teal or 1 of each daily and no more than 4 singly or in the aggregate in possession.

States in the Atlantic, Mississippi and Central Flyways may select a special scaup-only hunting season not to exceed 16 consecutive days, with daily bag and possession limits of 5 and 10 scaup, respectively, subject to the following conditions:

1. The season must fall between October 1, 1979, and January 31, 1980, all dates inclusive.
2. The season must fall outside the open season for any other ducks except sea ducks.
3. The season must be limited to areas mutually agreed upon between the State and the Service prior to September 1, 1979.
4. These areas must be described and delineated in State hunting regulations.

Or

As an alternative, States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, except those selecting a point system, may select an extra daily bag and possession limit of 2 and 4 scaup, respectively, during the regular duck hunting season, subject to conditions 3 and 4 listed above. These extra limits are in addition to the regular duck limits and apply during the entire regular duck season.

Selection of the point system for any State entirely within a flyway must be

on a statewide basis, *except* if New York selects the point system, conventional regulations may be retained for the Long Island Area. New York may not select the point system within the Upstate zoning option, and Maine, Connecticut, and North Carolina may not select the point system pending completion of zoning studies currently under way.

States that did not select their rail, woodcock, snipe, gallinule, or sea duck seasons in July should do so at the time they make their waterfowl selections.

Frameworks for open seasons and season lengths, bag and possession limit options, and other special provisions are listed below by Flyway.

Atlantic Flyway

Between October 1, 1979, and January 20, 1980, States in this Flyway may select open seasons on ducks, coots, and mergansers of: (a) 50 days, with basic daily bag and possession limits of 4 and 8 ducks, respectively, of which no more than 2 in the daily bag and 4 in possession may be black ducks; or (b) 50 days, with basic daily bag and possession limits of 5 and 10 ducks, respectively, of which no more than 1 in the daily bag and 2 in possession may be black ducks.

Except in closed areas, the limit on canvasbacks and redheads is 1 canvasback daily and 1 in possession or 1 redhead daily and 1 in possession. Under the point system, canvasbacks count 100 points each and redheads count 70 points each, except in closed areas. Areas closed to canvasback and redhead hunting are:

New York—Upper Niagara River between the Peace Bridge at Buffalo, New York, and the Niagara Falls. All waters of Lake Cayuga.

New Jersey—Those portions of Monmouth County and Ocean County lying east of the Garden State Parkway.

Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina—Those portions of each State lying east of U.S. Highway 1.

Under conventional and point system options, the daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 2 and 4 wood ducks, respectively, except that Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida may split their regular hunting season so that a hunting season not to exceed 9 consecutive days occurs between October 1 and October 15. During this period under conventional regulations, no special restrictions within the regular daily bag and possession limits established for the flyway in 1979 shall apply to wood ducks. Under the point system, the point value of wood ducks shall be 25. For other ducks, daily bag

and possession limits shall be the same as established for the flyway under conventional or point system regulations. For those States using conventional regulations, the 9 consecutive days extra teal option may be selected concurrent with the early wood duck season option. This exception to the daily bag and possession limits for wood ducks shall not apply to that portion of the duck hunting season that occurs after October 15.

The daily bag limit on mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is 10, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

The daily bag and possession limits of coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

The Lake Champlain Area of New York must follow the waterfowl seasons, daily bag and possession limits, and shooting hours selected by Vermont. This area includes that part of New York lying east and north of a boundary running south from the Canadian border along U.S. Highway 9 to New York Route 22 south of Keeseville along New York Route 22 to South Bay, along and around the shoreline of South Bay to New York Route 22, along New York Route 22 to U.S. Highway 4 at Whitehall, and along U.S. Highway 4 to the Vermont border.

In lieu of a special scaup season, Vermont may, for the Lake Champlain Area, select a special scaup and goldeneye season not to exceed 16 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 3 scaup or 3 goldeneyes or 3 in the aggregate and a possession limit of 6 scaup or 6 goldeneyes or 6 in the aggregate, subject to the same provisions that apply to the special scaup season elsewhere.

New York may, for Long Island, select season dates and daily bag and possession limits which differ from those in the remainder of the State.

Upstate New York (excluding the Lake Champlain area) may be divided into three zones (West, North, South) on an experimental basis for the purpose of setting separate duck, coot and merganser seasons. Option (a) and (b) for seasons and bag limits is applicable to the zones in the Upstate area within the Flyway framework; only conventional regulations may be selected. Each zone will be permitted the full number of days offered under options (a) or (b). In addition, a two-segment split season without penalty may be selected in each zone. The basic daily bag limit on ducks in each zone and the restrictions applicable to options (a) and (b) of the regular season for the Flyway also apply. Teal and

scaup bonus bird options shall be applicable to the Upstate zones, but the 16-day special scaup season will not be allowed.

The zones are defined as follows:

The West Zone is that portion of Upstate New York lying west of a line commencing at the north shore of the Salmon River and its junction with Lake Ontario and extending easterly along the north shore of the Salmon River to its intersection with Interstate Highway 81, then southerly along Interstate Highway 81 to the Pennsylvania border.

The North and South Zones are bordered on the west by the boundary described above and are separated from each other as follows:

Starting at the intersection of Interstate Highway 81 and New York Route 49 and extending easterly along Route 49 to its junction with Route 8 in Utica, then southerly along Route 8 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 20 in Bridgewater, then easterly along U.S. Highway 20 to the Massachusetts border.

Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina each may be divided into two zones on an experimental basis for the purpose of setting separate duck, coot and merganser seasons. Option (a) or (b) for seasons and bag limits is applicable to the zones within the Flyway framework; only conventional regulations may be selected in Maine, Connecticut and North Carolina. Both zones will be permitted the full number of days offered under options (a) or (b). In addition, a two-segment split season without penalty may be selected. The basic daily bag limit on ducks in each zone and the restrictions applicable to options (a) and (b) of the regular season for the Flyway also apply. Teal and scaup bonus bird options and the 16-day special scaup season shall be allowed.

The zones are defined as follows:

Maine: North Zone—Game Management Zones 1, 2 and 3. South Zone—Game Management Zones 4 through 8.

Massachusetts: Coastal Zone—Beginning at the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border, that portion of the State east and south of a boundary formed by Interstate 95, south to U.S. Route 1, south to Interstate 93, south to Route 3, south to U.S. Route 6, southwest to Route 28, northwest to Interstate 195, and west to the Rhode Island line. Inland Zone—That portion of the State west and north of the above boundary.

Connecticut: North Zone—That portion of the State north of Interstate 95. South Zone—That portion of the State south of Interstate 95.

Pennsylvania: North Zone—The Lake Erie waters of Pennsylvania and a shoreline margin along Lake Erie from New York on the east to Ohio on the west extending 150 yards

inland, but including all of Presque Isle Peninsula. South Zone—The remainder of the State.

North Carolina: East Zone—That portion of the State east of U.S. Highway 1. West Zone—That portion of the State west of U.S. Highway 1.

As an alternative to conventional bag limits for ducks, a 50-day season with a point-system bag limit may be selected by States in the Atlantic Flyway during the framework dates prescribed. Point values for species and sexes taken are as follows: in Florida only, the fulvous tree duck counts 100 points each; in all States the canvasback counts 100 points each (except in closed areas); the female mallard, black duck, mottled duck, wood duck (except in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida during the early wood duck season option), redhead (except in closed areas) and hooded merganser count 70 points each; the blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, pintail, gadwall, wigeon, shoveler, scaup, sea ducks, and mergansers (except hooded) count 10 points each; the male mallard, the wood duck during the early wood duck season option in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and all other species of ducks count 25 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, added to the sum of the point values of the other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in 2 days.

In any State in the Atlantic Flyway selecting both point-system regulations and a special sea duck season, sea ducks count 10 points each during the point-system season, but during any part of the regular sea duck season falling outside the point-system season, regular sea duck daily bag and possession limits of 7 and 14, respectively, apply.

Coots have a point value of zero, but the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively, as under the conventional limits.

Between October 1, 1979, and January 20, 1980, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia (excluding those portions of the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake lying east of Interstate 64 and U.S. Highway 17) may select 70-day seasons on Canada geese; the daily bag and possession limits are 3 and 6 geese, respectively. However, in the area comprised of New Jersey, Delaware, the Delmarva Peninsula portions of Maryland and Virginia, and that portion of Pennsylvania lying east and south of

a boundary beginning at Interstate Highway 83 at the Maryland border and extending north to Harrisburg, then east on U.S. Highway 22 to the New Jersey border, the Canada goose season length will be 90 days with the closing framework date extended to January 31, 1980. The daily bag limit within this area will be 4 birds with a possession limit of 8 birds. North Carolina and those portions of the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake lying east of Interstate 64 and U.S. Highway 17 in Virginia may select 50-day seasons on Canada geese within the October 1, 1979, to January 20, 1980, framework; the daily bag and possession limits are 2 and 4 Canada geese, respectively. South Carolina may select a 50-day season on Canada geese within the October 1, 1979, to January 20, 1980, framework; the daily bag and possession limits are 1 and 2 Canada geese, respectively.

The season is closed on Canada geese in Florida and Georgia.

Between October 1, 1979, and January 31, 1980, States in the Atlantic Flyway may select 70-day seasons on snow geese (including blue geese); the daily bag and possession limits are 4 and 8 geese, respectively.

The season is closed on Atlantic brant.

Mississippi Flyway

Between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, States in this Flyway may select concurrent 50-day seasons on ducks, coots, and mergansers, except that in Iowa the framework opening date is September 22 and in Mississippi the framework closing date is January 31. The daily bag limit for ducks is 5, and may include no more than 3 mallards, no more than 2 of which may be female mallards; 1 black duck; and 2 wood ducks (except as noted below). The possession limit is 10, including no more than 6 mallards, no more than 4 of which may be female mallards; 2 black ducks; and 4 wood ducks (except as noted below).

Except in closed areas, the limit on canvasbacks and redheads is 1 canvasback daily and 1 in possession or 1 redhead daily and 1 in possession. Under the point system, canvasbacks count 100 points each and redheads count 70 points each, except in closed areas. Areas closed to canvasback and redhead hunting are:

Mississippi River—Entire river, both sides, from Alton Dam upstream to Prescott, Wisconsin, at confluence of St. Croix River.

Alabama—Baldwin and Mobile Counties.

Louisiana—Caddo, St. Charles, and St.

Mary Parishes; that portion of Ward 1 formerly designated as Ward 6 of St. Martin

Parish; and Catahoula Lake in LaSalle and Rapides Parishes.

Michigan—Arenac, Bay, Huron, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, Tuscola, and Wayne Counties, and those adjacent waters of Saginaw Bay south of a line extending from Point au Gres in Sec. 6, T18N, R7E (Arenac County) to Sand Point in Sec. 11, T17N, R9E (Huron County), the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie, under jurisdiction of the State of Michigan.

Minnesota—Douglas, Mahnomen, Polk, Pope and Sibley Counties. Where the county line of any of the above counties crosses any portion of a lake, that entire lake is closed. In addition, all land in Sec. 13, T130N, R31W (i.e., land between Lake Christina and Pelican Lake) is closed.

Ohio—Land and water areas comprising Erie, Ottawa and Sandusky Counties.

Tennessee—Kentucky Lake lying north of Interstate Highway 40.

Wisconsin—In the Mississippi River Zone, all that part of Wisconsin west of the Burlington-Northern Railroad in Grant, Crawford, Vernon, LaCrosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin and Pierce Counties. Also, the following lakes and waters, including a strip of land 100 yards wide adjacent to the shorelines thereof: Lake Poygan in Winnebago and Waushara Counties and Lakes Winneconne and Butte des Morts, including the connecting waters thereof, in Winnebago County.

The daily bag limit on mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is 10, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

The daily bag and possession limits on coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

As an alternative to conventional bag limits for ducks, a 50-day season with point-system bag and possession limits may be selected by States in the Mississippi Flyway during the framework dates prescribed. Point values for species and sexes taken are as follows: except in closed areas, the canvasback counts 100 points; the redhead (except in closed areas), female mallard, wood duck (except as noted below), black duck and hooded merganser count 70 points each; the pintail, blue-winged teal, cinnamon teal, wigeon, gadwall, shoveler, scaup, green-winged teal and mergansers (except hooded merganser) count 10 points each; the male mallard and all other species of ducks count 25 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, added to the sum of the point values of the other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in 2 days.

Coots have a point value of zero, but the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively, as under the conventional limits.

Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama may split their regular duck hunting seasons in such a way that a hunting season not to exceed 9 consecutive days may occur between October 1 and October 15. During this period, under conventional regulations, no special restrictions within the regular daily bag and possession limits established for the Flyway shall apply to wood ducks, and under the point system, the point value for wood ducks shall be 25 points. For other species of ducks, daily bag and possession limits shall be the same as established for the Flyway under conventional or point system regulations. In addition, the extra blue-winged teal option available to States in this Flyway that select conventional regulations and do not have a September teal season may be selected during this period. This exception to the daily bag and possession limits for wood ducks shall not apply to that portion of the duck hunting season that occurs after October 15.

In that portion of Louisiana west of a boundary beginning at the Arkansas-Louisiana border on Louisiana Highway 3; then south along Louisiana Highway 3 to Shreveport; then east along Interstate 20 to Minden; then south along Louisiana Highway 7 to Ringgold; then east along Louisiana Highway 4 to Jonesboro; then south along U.S. Highway 167 to Lafayette; then southeast along U.S. Highway 90 to Houma; then south along the Houma Navigation Channel to the Gulf of Mexico through Cat Island Pass—the season on ducks, coots and mergansers may extend 5 additional days, provided that the season opens no later than on November 3, 1979. If the 5-day extension is selected, and if point-system regulations are selected for the State, point values will be the same as for the rest of the State.

The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours in the Pymatuning Reservoir area of Ohio will be the same as those selected by Pennsylvania. The area includes Pymatuning Reservoir and that part of Ohio bounded on the north by County Road 306 known as Woodward Road, on the west by Pymatuning Lake Road, and on the south by U.S. Highway 322.

Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Alabama and Tennessee may select hunting seasons on ducks, coots and mergansers by zones described as follows:

Michigan: *North Zone*—The Upper Peninsula. *South Zone*—The Lower Peninsula.

Illinois: *North Zone*—That portion of the State north of U.S. Highway 50. *South Zone*—The remainder of Illinois.

Indiana: *North Zone*—That portion of Indiana north of State Highway 18. *South Zone*—The remainder of Indiana.

Ohio: *North Zone*—The counties of Darke, Miami, Clark, Champaign, Union, Delaware, Licking, Miskingum, Guernsey, Harrison and Jefferson and all counties north thereof. In addition, the North Zone also includes that portion of the Buckeye Lake area in Fairfield and Perry Counties bounded on the west by State Highway 37, on the south by State Highway 204, and on the east by State Highway 13. *South Zone*—The remainder of Ohio.

Ohio may split its season in each zone into two segments.

Missouri: *North Zone*—That portion of Missouri north of a line running easterly from the Kansas-Missouri border along U.S. Highway 160 to the junction of U.S. Highway 60 in Springfield, along U.S. Highway 60 to the junction of State Highway 21, along State Highway 21 to the junction of State Highway 34, and along State Highway 34 to the Illinois-Missouri border along the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau. *South Zone*—The remainder of Missouri.

Alabama: *South Zone*—Mobile and Baldwin Counties. *North Zone*—The remainder of Alabama.

Tennessee: *Reelfoot Zone*—Lake and Obion Counties, or a designated portion of that area. *State Zone*—The remainder of Tennessee.

Within each State: (1) the same bag limit option must be selected for both zones; (2) if a special scaup season is selected for a zone, it shall not begin until after the regular season closing date in that zone.

The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours in the lower St. Francis River area of Arkansas and Missouri shall be the same as those selected by Missouri. The area is defined as that part of the St. Francis River south of U.S. Highway 62 where it is the boundary between Arkansas and Missouri and all sloughs and chutes (but not tributaries) connected to it.

Between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, States in this Flyway, except Louisiana, may select 70-day seasons on geese, with daily bag and possession limits of 5 geese, to include no more than 2 white-fronted geese. Regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State.

Between September 29, 1979, and February 14, 1980, Louisiana may select 70-day seasons on snow (including blue) and white-fronted geese by zones established for duck hunting seasons, with daily bag and possession limits of 5 geese, to include no more than 2 white-fronted geese.

The season on Canada geese is closed in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In Minnesota, in the:

(a) Lac Qui Parle Zone (described in State regulations)—the season on Canada geese closes after 50 days or when 7,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

(b) Southeastern Zone (described in State regulations)—The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 consecutive days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

(c) Remainder of the State—the season on Canada geese will be concurrent with the duck season. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

In Iowa, the season for Canada geese may extend for 70 consecutive days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese. The possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

In Missouri, in the:

(a) Swan Lake Zone (described in State regulations)—the season on Canada geese closes after 70 days or when 25,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. Through November 25, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese. After November 25, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

(b) Southeastern Area (east of U.S. Highway 67 and south of Crystal City)—the State may select a 45-day season on Canada geese between December 1, 1979, and January 20, 1980, with a daily bag limit of 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; and a possession limit of 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

(c) Remainder of the State—the season on Canada geese may not exceed 45 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the

aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

In Wisconsin, the harvest of Canada geese is limited to 35,000. In the Horicon Zone, during the first hunting period, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each, and the possession limit is 1 Canada goose and 2 white-fronted geese; thereafter, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each, and the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese. In the Central Zone, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each, and the possession limit is 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese. Elsewhere in Wisconsin, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each, and the possession limit is 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese. In the Horicon Zone and the Central Zone, Canada goose hunting is restricted to those persons holding valid Canada goose hunting permits issued by the State. The Horicon Zone is defined as those portions of the counties of Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Washington and Dodge enclosed by a line beginning at the intersection of State Highway 175 and State Highway 23 in Fond du Lac County, then southerly on State Highway 175 to its intersection with State Highway 33, then westerly on State Highway 33 to the City of Beaver Dam, then northerly on State Highway 33 to its intersection with County Highway A, then northerly on County Highway A to its intersection with County Highway S, then easterly on County Highway S and continuing easterly on County Highway AS to its intersection with County Highway E, then northerly on County Highway E to its intersection with State Highway 23, then easterly on County Highway 23 to the point of beginning.

The Central Zone is defined as those portions of Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Green Lake, Marquette, Columbia and Dodge Counties enclosed by a line beginning in Winnebago County at the intersection of State Highway 21 and U.S. Highway 45, then southerly on U.S. Highway 45 to its intersection with State Highway 175, then southerly on State Highway 175 to its intersection with State Highway 23, then westerly on State Highway 23 to its intersection with County Highway E, then southerly on County Highway E to its intersection with County Highway AS, then westerly on County Highway AS and continuing westerly on County Highway S to its intersection with County Highway A, then southerly on County Highway A to its intersection with State Highway 33,

then southeasterly on State Highway 33 to its intersection with U.S. Highway 151, then southwesterly on U.S. Highway 151 to its intersection with State Highway 73, then northerly on State Highway 73 to its intersection with State Highway 33, then westerly on State Highway 33 to its intersection with State Highway 22, then northerly on State Highway 22 to its intersection with State Highway 23, then northeasterly on State Highway 23 to its intersection with State Highway 49, then northerly on State Highway 49 to its intersection with State Highway 116, then easterly on State Highway 116 to State Highway 21, then easterly on State Highway 21 to the point of beginning.

In Illinois, 70-day seasons on geese may be selected by zones established for duck hunting seasons. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 35,000, with 29,000 birds allocated to the Southern Illinois Zone (described in State regulations). The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese. The season on Canada geese may open at a later date in the Southern Illinois Zone and extend to January 20, 1980, or until the Zone's quota of 29,000 birds is reached, whichever occurs first.

In Michigan, in the:

(a) Counties of Baraga, Dickinson, Delta, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee and Ontonagon—the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese.

(b) Southeastern Canada Goose Management Area (described in State regulations)—the Canada goose season will open with the duck season and extend through December 9. Through November 14, the daily bag limit will be 1 Canada goose and 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese. From November 15 through December 9, the daily bag limit will be 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese.

(c) Remainder of the State—the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 1 Canada goose and 2 white-fronted geese.

In Ohio, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each and the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese, except that in the counties of Ashtabula, Trumbull, Marion, Wyandot, Lucas, Ottawa, Erie, Sandusky, Mercer and

Auglaize, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

In Indiana, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 2 Canada and 2 white-fronted geese.

In Kentucky, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese. In the Ballard County Zone (described in State regulations), the harvest of Canada geese is limited to 15,000.

In Tennessee, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the possession limit is 2 Canada geese, except in that portion of the State west of State Highway 13, where the daily bag and possession limits are 2 Canada geese. The season on Canada geese is closed in that portion of Tennessee bounded on the north by State Highways 20 and 104, and on the east by U.S. Highways 45W and 45.

In Alabama, the season is closed on all geese in the counties of Henry, Russell and Barbour. Elsewhere in Alabama, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each; the possession limit is 4 Canada and white-fronted geese in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-fronted geese.

When it has been determined that the quota of Canada geese allotted to the Southern Illinois Zone, the Swan Lake Zone of Missouri, and the Ballard County Zone of Kentucky will have been filled, the season for taking Canada geese in the respective area will be closed by the Director upon giving public notice through local information media at least 48 hours in advance of the time and date of closing.

Geese taken in Illinois and Missouri and in the Kentucky counties of Ballard, Hickman, Fulton, and Carlisle may not be transported, shipped, or delivered for transportation or shipment by common carrier, the Postal Service, or by any person except as the personal baggage of the hunter taking the birds.

Central Flyway

Seasons on ducks (including mergansers) and coots may be selected between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, inclusive, in Central Flyway States and portions of States.

The basic season may include no more than 60 days. Conventional limits on ducks (including mergansers), singly or in the aggregate, are 5 daily and 10 in possession. The aggregate daily bag limit on ducks (including mergansers) may include no more than 1 redhead or

1 canvasback (note areas closed to canvasback hunting), 1 female mallard, 1 hooded merganser, and 2 wood ducks. The possession limit may include no more than 1 redhead or 1 canvasback (note areas closed to canvasback hunting), 2 female mallards, 2 hooded mergansers, and 4 wood ducks. The daily bag and possession limits on coots are 15 and 30, respectively.

North Dakota—that portion lying east of State Highway 3, including all or portions of 27 counties.

South Dakota—all of Marshall County; that portion of Day County east of State Highway 25; that portion of Codington County south of State Highway 20 and west of U.S. Highway 81; that portion of Hamlin County west of U.S. Highway 81; and that portion of Kingsbury County east of State Highway 25 and north of U.S. Highway 14.

As an alternative to conventional bag and possession limits for ducks, point-system regulations may be selected for States and portions of States in this Flyway. The point system season length in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit is 83 days provided that the last 23 days of such season must begin on or after December 8, 1979. The High Plains Unit, roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway which lies west of the 100th meridian, shall be described in State regulations. The season length for the Low Plains Unit (those portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas not included in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit) may not exceed 60 days.

The point values for species and sexes taken in the Central Flyway are: canvasbacks count 100 points each (note areas closed to canvasback hunting); female mallards, Mexican-like ducks, wood ducks, redheads and hooded mergansers count 70 points each; blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, cinnamon teal, scaup, pintails, gadwalls, wigeon, shovelers, and mergansers (except the hooded merganser) count 10 points each; all other species and sexes of ducks count 20 points each. The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken, when added to the sum of the point values of other birds already taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points. The possession limit is the maximum number of birds which legally could have been taken in 2 days.

Coots have a point value of zero, but the daily bag and possession limits are 15 and 30, respectively, as under conventional limits.

Those portions of Colorado and Wyoming lying west of the Continental Divide, that portion of New Mexico

lying west of the Continental Divide plus the entire Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, and that portion of Montana which includes the counties of Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher, and Park and all counties west thereof, must select open seasons on waterfowl and coots in accordance with the framework for the Pacific Flyway.

States in this Flyway may select goose seasons between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, inclusive.

Montana, Wyoming and Colorado may select, for the Central Flyway portions, seasons of 93 days, with daily bag and possession limits of 2 and 4 geese, respectively.

New Mexico (for the Central Flyway portion) and Texas (for that portion west of U.S. Highway 81) may select seasons of 93 days with a daily bag limit of 5 geese which may include no more than 2 dark (Canada and white-fronted) geese and a possession limit of 5 geese which may include no more than 4 dark geese.

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (for that portion east of U.S. Highway 81) may select seasons of 86 days for light (snow, including blue and Ross') geese and seasons of 72 days for dark (Canada and white-fronted) geese subject to the following:

Seasons for light and dark geese need not be concurrent.

The daily bag and possession limits may not exceed 5 geese during periods when such light and dark goose seasons may be concurrent.

The daily bag and possession limits may include no more than 5 light geese.

The daily bag limit may include no more than 2 dark geese and the possession limit may include no more than 4 dark geese subject to the following:

In North Dakota, the daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose or 2 white-fronted geese. The possession limit may include no more than 2 Canada or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each. The season on dark geese may not extend beyond November 18, 1979.

In South Dakota, the daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose and the possession limit may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each. The season on dark geese may not extend beyond November 25, 1979, in the counties of Buffalo, Brule, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, and Sully.

In Nebraska, the season on dark geese may not extend beyond December 16, 1979. The daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-

fronted goose and the possession limit may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each except that, in that portion of the State west of U.S. Highway 183, prior to November 19, the daily bag limit may include no more than 2 Canada geese and the possession limit no more than 4 Canada geese.

In Kansas, the season on dark geese may not extend beyond December 23, 1979. The daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada and 1 white-fronted goose and the possession limit may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

In the Oklahoma counties of Alfalfa, Bryan, Johnston, and Marshall, the State may select either:

(a) A season of 72 days with a daily bag limit of no more than 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose, and a possession limit of no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

OR

(b) A season of 53 days (within the 72-day period selected for the remainder of the State) with a daily bag limit of no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose, and a possession limit of no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

In the remainder of Oklahoma, the daily bag limit may include no more than 2 Canada geese or 1 Canada goose and 1 white-fronted goose and the possession limit no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

In that portion of Texas east of U.S. Highway 81, the daily bag limit may include no more than 1 Canada goose or 1 white-fronted goose and the possession limit no more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese or 1 of each.

Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming may select a sandhill crane season with daily bag and possession limits of 3 and 6, respectively, within a September 29, 1979-January 31, 1980, framework as follows:

(a) 37 consecutive days from September 29 through November 18, 1979, in the Central Flyway portion of Colorado except the San Luis Valley area, and in the Wyoming counties of Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte and Weston.

(b) 93 consecutive days between October 20, 1979, and January 31, 1980, in the New Mexico counties of Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt, and in that portion of Texas west of a boundary from the Oklahoma border along U.S. Highway 287 to U.S.

Highway 87 at Dumas, along U.S. Highway 87 (including all of Howard and Lynn Counties) to U.S. Highway 277 at San Angelo, and along U.S. Highway 277 to the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio.

(c) 58 consecutive days on or after November 24, 1979, in that portion of Oklahoma west of U.S. Highway 81, and in that portion of Texas east of a boundary from the Oklahoma border along U.S. Highway 287 to U.S. Highway 87 at Dumas, then along U.S. Highway 87 to San Angelo, and west of a line running north from San Angelo along U.S. Highway 277 to Abilene, along State Highway 351 to Albany, along U.S. Highway 283 to Vernon, and then along U.S. Highway 183 east to the Oklahoma border.

(d) 37 consecutive days, to open with the goose season, in all of the Central Flyway portion of Montana except Sheridan County and that area south and west of Interstate Highway 90 and the Big Horn River.

All persons hunting sandhill cranes in the above designated areas of the Central Flyway must obtain and possess valid Federal permits issued by the appropriate State conservation agency on an equitable basis without charge.

Emergency closures of hunting seasons will be considered whenever portions of either the Grays Lake or Aransas flocks of whooping cranes are found in areas where there is risk to their taking by hunters.

Pacific Flyway

Between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, concurrent 93-day seasons on ducks, mergansers, coots, and gallinules may be selected in Pacific Flyway States and portions of States, except as subsequently noted. Basic daily bag and possession limits on ducks are 7 and 14, respectively.

No more than 2 redheads or 2 canvasbacks or 1 of each may be taken daily and no more than 4 singly or in the aggregate may be possessed.

The daily bag and possession limits on mergansers are 5 and 10, respectively, of which no more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

The daily bag and possession limits on coots and gallinules are 25 singly or in the aggregate.

Waterfowl season dates for the Colorado River Zone of California must coincide with season dates selected by Arizona for waterfowl. Waterfowl season dates for the Northeastern Zone of California must coincide with season dates selected by Oregon for waterfowl, except that the season on geese may differ according to prescribed options

described later. For the Southern Zone of California (as described in Title 14 California Fish and Game Code, Section 502), the State may designate season dates differing from those in the remainder of the State.

For Nevada, county of Clark, the State may designate season dates for waterfowl differing from those in the remainder of the State.

In the Idaho counties of Ada, Bannock, Benewah, Blaine, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Power, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Washington, and that portion of Bingham County lying outside the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; the Oregon counties of Baker, Gilliam, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco; and in Washington all areas lying east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County (all formerly identified as the Columbia Basin Area for ducks), between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, the season lengths for ducks, mergansers, coots and gallinules may be 100 days with all seasons to run concurrently.

Between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, 93-day seasons on geese may be selected in States or portions of States in this Flyway, except as subsequently noted. The basic daily bag and possession limits are 6, provided, that the daily bag limit includes no more than 3 white geese (snow, including blue, and Ross' geese) and 3 dark geese (Canada and white-fronted geese); the daily bag and possession limits are proportionately reduced in those areas where special restrictions apply to Canada geese. In Washington and Idaho, the daily bag and possession limits are 3 and 6 geese, respectively.

The season is closed on the Aleutian Canada goose.

Three areas in California, described as follows, are restricted to the hunting of dark geese (Canada and white-fronted geese) in order to protect the Aleutian Canada goose for which no hunting is allowed and to temporarily reduce harvests on white-fronted geese and cackling Canada geese:

(1) In the counties of Del Norte and Humboldt there will be no open season on dark geese during the 1979-80 waterfowl hunting season.

(2) In the Sacramento Valley in the area described as follows: beginning at Willows in Glenn County proceeding south on Interstate Highway 5 to the junction with Hahn Road north of

Arbuckle in Colusa County; then easterly on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to Grimes on the Sacramento River; then south on the Sacramento River to the Tisdale Bypass; then easterly on the Tisdale Bypass to where it meets O'Banion Road; then easterly on O'Banion Road to State Highway 99; then northerly on State Highway 99 to its junction with the Gridley-Colusa Highway in Gridley in Butte County; then westerly on the Gridley-Colusa Highway to its junction with the River Road; then northerly on the River Road to the Princeton Ferry; then westerly across the Sacramento River to State Highway 45; then northerly on State Highway 45 to its junction with State Highway 162; then continuing northerly on State Highway 45-162 to Glenn; then westerly on State Highway 162 to the point of beginning in Willows; the hunting season for taking dark geese will not open until December 15, 1979, and will then continue to the end of the 1979-80 waterfowl hunting season.

(3) In the San Joaquin Valley in the area described as follows: beginning at Modesto in Stanislaus County proceeding west on State Highway 132 to the junction of Interstate 5; then southerly on Interstate 5 to the junction of State Highway 152 in Merced County; then easterly on State Highway 152 to the junction of State Highway 59; then northerly on State Highway 59 to the junction of State Highway 99 at Merced; then northerly and westerly to the point of beginning; the hunting season for taking dark geese will close on November 23, 1979.

Emergency closures may be invoked for all Canada geese should Aleutian Canada goose distribution patterns or other circumstances justify such actions.

In the Washington counties of Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Walla Walla, and Yakima, and in the Oregon counties of Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco, the goose season may be of 100 days duration and must run concurrently with the duck season; and the bag limits for geese are to be the same as in the general goose season in their respective States.

Oregon, for Lake and Klamath Counties, and California, for the Northeastern Zone and the Balance-of-the-State Zone, may select frameworks for season and limits among the following listed seven options. The selected season must occur within that selected for ducks.

For Lake and Klamath Counties, Oregon, and the Northeastern Zone of California:

Option 1. A season of not more than 79 days between November 3, 1979, and January 20, 1980, with a basic goose bag of 6 per day and 6 in possession of which not more than 3 dark and 3 white geese may be in the daily bag.

Option 2. A season of not more than 86 days between October 27, 1979, and January 20, 1980, with a basic goose bag of 4 per day and 4 in possession, of which not more than 2 dark and 2 white geese may be in the daily bag.

Option 3. A season of 93 days between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, with a basic goose bag of 2 per day and 2 in possession of which not more than 1 dark and 1 white goose may be in the daily bag.

For the Balance-of-the-State Zone in California:

Option 4. A season of not more than 88 days between September 29, 1979, and December 25, 1979, with a basic goose bag of 6 per day and 6 in possession of which not more than 3 dark and 3 white geese may be in the daily bag.

Option 5. A season of not more than 93 days between September 29, 1979, and January 1, 1980, with a basic goose bag of 4 per day and 4 in possession of which not more than 2 dark and 2 white geese may be in the daily bag.

Option 6. A season of not more than 93 days between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, with a basic goose bag of 2 per day and 2 in possession of which not more than 1 dark and 1 white goose may be in the daily bag.

For Lake and Klamath Counties, Oregon (only):

Option 7. A season of not more than 93 days between September 29, 1979, and January 20, 1980, with a goose limit the same as that of Option #3, except that any time beginning or after October 27, 1979, the goose limit of Option #1 may be adopted.

In that portion of Idaho lying west of the line formed by U.S. Highway 93 north from the Nevada border to Shoshone, thence northerly on Idaho State Highway 75 (formerly U.S. Highway 93) to Challis, thence northerly on U.S. Highway 93 to the Montana border (except Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone, Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater and Idaho Counties); in the Oregon counties of Baker and Malheur; and in that portion of Montana and Wyoming in the Pacific Flyway, the daily bag and possession limit is 2 Canada geese and the season on Canada geese may not extend beyond January 1, 1979.

In that portion of Idaho lying east of the line formed by U.S. Highway 93 north from the Nevada border to Shoshone, thence northerly on Idaho

State Highway 75 (formerly U.S. Highway 93) to Challis, thence northerly on U.S. Highway 93 to the Montana border; in that portion of Colorado in the Pacific Flyway; and in Utah except Washington County, the daily bag and possession limits are 2 Canada geese, and the season on Canada geese may be no more than 72 days and may not extend beyond December 23, 1979.

For Nevada the State may experimentally designate season dates on geese in Clark County and on geese in Elko County and that portion of White Pine County within Ruby Lakes National Wildlife Refuge differing from those in the remainder of the State. The daily bag and possession limits are 2 Canada geese throughout the State.

In Arizona, except in the counties of Mohave and Yuma; in that portion of New Mexico in the Pacific Flyway; in Clark County, Nevada; in Washington County, Utah; and in the Southern Zone, except that portion in California Department of Fish and Game District 22, of California, the season on Canada geese may be no more than 72 days. The daily bag and possession limit is 2 Canada geese and the season on Canada geese may not extend beyond January 20, 1980.

In California, the balance of California Fish and Game District 22 in the Southern Zone (that portion of District 22 lying outside the Colorado River Zone), the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose with 2 in possession and the season on Canada geese may be no more than 72 days and may not extend beyond January 6, 1980.

In the Arizona counties of Mohave and Yuma and in the Colorado River Zone of California, the seasons on Canada geese may be no more than 72 days and may not extend beyond January 6, 1980. The daily bag and possession limits on Canada geese are 2 and 2, respectively, in these areas. The season on geese in the Colorado River Zone of California must be the same as that selected by Arizona.

In the Washington counties of Island, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom, the seasons on snow geese may not extend beyond January 1, 1980; and the daily bag and possession limits on snow geese are 2 and 4, respectively.

Between October 20, 1979, and February 20, 1980, States in this Flyway may select an open season on brant of 93 days with daily bag and possession limits of 4 and 8 brant, respectively.

In Utah, Nevada and Montana, an open season for taking a limited number of whistling swans may be selected subject to the following conditions: (a) the season must run concurrently with the duck season; (b) in Utah, no more

than 2,500 permits may be issued, authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan; (c) in Nevada, no more than 500 permits may be issued, authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan in Churchill County; (d) in Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued authorizing each permittee to take 1 whistling swan in Teton County; (e) permits and correspondingly numbered metal locking seals must be issued by the appropriate State conservation agency on an equitable basis without charge.

For all States entirely in the Pacific Flyway, open seasons on common snipe must coincide with the duck season locally in effect. For other States partially within the Pacific Flyway seasons between September 1, 1979, and February 28, 1980, and not to exceed 93 days, may be selected. The daily bag and possession limits are 8 and 16, respectively. Any State may split its snipe season without penalty.

Special Falconry Frameworks

Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State.

Any State listed in 50 CFR 21.29(k) as meeting Federal Falconry Standards may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

1. Seasons must fall within the regular season framework dates and, if offered, other special season framework dates for hunting.

2. Season lengths for all permitted methods of hunting within a given area may not exceed 107 days for any species.

3. Hunting hours shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to sunset.

4. Falconry daily bag and possession limits for all permitted migratory game birds shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate, during both regular hunting seasons and extended falconry seasons.

5. Each State selecting extended seasons shall report to the Service the results of the special falconry season by March 15, 1980.

6. Each State selecting the special season must inform the Service of the season dates and publish said regulations.

General hunting regulations, including seasons, hours, and limits, apply to falconry in each State listed in 50 CFR 21.29(k) which does not select an extended falconry season.

Dated: August 23, 1979.

Lynn A. Greenwalt,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 79-26680 Filed 8-27-79; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M