

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

WATERFOWL AND MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

GUIDEBOOK



2025-26

DUCKS • MERGANSERS • COOTS • SNIPE • SCAUP • GEESE • AMERICAN CROWS
TUNDRA SWANS • BAND-TAILED PIGEONS • DOVES • SANDHILL CRANES

CONTACT US

Turn in a poacher

Phone: 800-662-3337

Text: 847411

Online: wildlife.utah.gov/utip

Division offices

Offices are open 8 a.m.–5 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.

Salt Lake City

1594 W North Temple
Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
801-538-4700

Central Region

1115 N Main Street
Springville, UT 84663
801-491-5678

Northeastern Region

318 N Vernal Avenue
Vernal, UT 84078
435-781-9453

Northern Region

515 E 5300 S
Ogden, UT 84405
801-476-2740

Southeastern Region

319 N Carbonville Road, Ste A
Price, UT 84501
435-613-3700

Southern Region

1470 N Airport Road
Cedar City, UT 84721
435-865-6100

Washington County Field Office

451 N SR-318
Hurricane, UT 84737
435-879-8694

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On the cover: A drake canvasback sprints across the water's surface, wings outstretched.



WHAT'S NEW

Migratory game birds have moved: Beginning in 2025, the migratory game birds formerly included in the *Utah Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook*—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning and white-winged dove, and sandhill crane—are now regulated under *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9* as approved by the Utah Wildlife Board. If you're hunting migratory game birds or waterfowl (ducks, geese, snipe, coots and tundra swan), please refer to this guidebook, newly named the *Utah Waterfowl and Migratory Game Birds Guidebook*, for permit information, field requirements, season dates, bag and possession limits, and more.

Apply for tundra swan, crane and grouse permits:

If you plan to apply for tundra swan, sandhill crane, greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permits in the hunt drawing, the application period runs from July 2–16, 2025. For more information on applying for a tundra swan or sandhill crane permit, see page 13. For information on applying for grouse permits, see the 2025–26 *Utah Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook*.

Band-tailed pigeon permit required: Beginning July 31, 2025 at 8 a.m. MDT, you can obtain the free permit required for hunting band-tailed pigeons. Permits are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt dates: This fall, the Youth Waterfowl Hunt in the Northern Zone will be held Sept. 20, 2025. The Youth Waterfowl Hunt in the Southern Zone will be held one week later, on Sept. 27, 2025. For details, see page 38.

Duck stamp options: There are now several options to obtain a printed or electronic duck stamp, which are valid from the date of purchase through June 30. See page 12 for duck stamp requirements and purchase options, or visit wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl for details.

KNOW THE LAWS

This guidebook summarizes Utah's waterfowl and migratory game birds hunting laws and rules. Although it is a convenient quick-reference document for Utah's regulations, it is not an all-encompassing resource.

For more information and an in-depth look at the state's waterfowl hunting rules, visit wildlife.utah.gov/rules. To see all of Utah's state wildlife laws and statutes, visit le.utah.gov/xcode/code.html.

Then use the references in the guidebook—such as *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-6* and *Utah Code § 23A-5-309*—to find the detailed law or rule that underpins the guidebook summary.

If you have questions about a particular rule, call or visit the nearest Division office.

Who makes the rules?

The Utah Wildlife Board passes the rules summarized in this guidebook.

There are seven board members, and each serves a six-year term. Appointed by the governor, board members are not Division employees.

The Division's director serves as the board's executive secretary but does not have a vote on wildlife policies.

Before board members make changes to wildlife rules, they listen to recommendations from Division biologists. They also receive input from the public and various interest groups via the regional advisory council (RAC) process.

If you have feedback or suggestions for board members, you can find their contact information online at wildlife.utah.gov.

Wildlife Board members

Kent Johnson
Paula Richmond
Bret Selman
Bryce Thurgood

Randy Dearth, *Chair*
Gary Nielson, *Vice Chair*
Riley Peck, *Division Director*
& *Executive Secretary*

Swan check-in and reporting: You must check in **any** swan you take at a DWR office or the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge office within 72 hours. Hunters must complete their online harvest report prior to or at the time of check-in (wildlife.utah.gov/harvest). **Note:** The Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge swan check-in station will be open only on Fridays and Saturdays (9 a.m.–noon and 2–7 p.m.) in 2025. For more information, see pages 18–19.

Duck bag limits have changed: The daily bag limit for pintail has increased to 3 birds (it was formerly 1 pintail). The daily bag limit of 7 ducks may now include no more than: 2 female mallards, 3 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 wood ducks, 2 scaup and 2 canvasbacks.

White-fronted geese bag and possession limit increase: Hunters may now take 10 white-fronted geese each day, with a possession limit of 30. (Previously, this was 6 daily bag limit, 18 in possession.) To see bag and possession limits for all geese, see pages 38–39.

Residency requirements: To apply for a resident permit, you must be a Utah resident on the date you submit your application. (Previously, the residency date was linked to the date of purchase.) See the definition of *Resident* on page 68.

Nonresident fee increase: In the 2025 session, the Utah Legislature authorized higher nonresident fees to help fund the purchase of large blocks of land for wildlife habitat and conservation. These nonresident fee increases begin July 1, 2025 for hunting, fishing and combination licenses, and Sept. 1, 2025 for hunting application fees and hunting permits. See page 8 for details, and visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees for full list of Utah's license and permit fees.

License required to access WMAs: Effective May 7, 2025, a new state law requires anyone 18 years old or older to have a valid Utah hunting, fishing or combination license to access

waterfowl and wildlife management areas in Utah's four largest counties (Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber). This includes anyone accessing a WMA for dog training or other recreational purposes. WMAs are primarily funded by the sales of Utah hunting, fishing and combination licenses and by federal excise taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment; typically, state taxes do not pay for them. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/wmas for a list of Utah's WMAs, other rules and requirements, and exemptions to this law.

Hunting outfitters and guides: Guides and outfitters in Utah are now regulated by the DWR (instead of the Department of Professional Licensing) as approved by the Utah Legislature this year. If you are a guide, outfitter or spotter, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/guides for updated application, registration and other operational requirements.

Permit required to guide on WMAs: Anyone guiding on waterfowl management areas must obtain a special-use permit from the Division. (This is a separate requirement in addition to outfitter/guide licensing.) Remember, your SUP application is due by the end of August in order to be valid for the upcoming hunting season. For more information, see page 25 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/WMAguiding.

Harmful algal blooms: In recent years, Utah has experienced recurring toxic algal blooms. Hunters should keep their dogs away if they suspect a harmful algal bloom, as the toxins are often fatal for dogs. Prior to going into the field, visit habs.utah.gov to see if HABs may be present. See the information box on page 30 for more information.

Check season dates: Season dates change every year. For details, see the section that starts on page 38.

And keep in mind

Electronic transaction fee: A 2.2% transaction fee applies to all online and in-person credit/debit card transactions.

Online HIP registration process: You must have a HIP number issued between March 11, 2025 and March 10, 2026 if you plan to hunt waterfowl during the 2025–2026 season. To register, visit wildlife.utah.gov/uthip. For more information, please see page 12.

Swan course: Hunters must complete the swan identification orientation course **each year before** they apply for a tundra swan permit or a preference point. For details, see page 13 or wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl.

Trumpeter swan rules: Taking trumpeter swans is illegal in Utah. Intentionally or unintentionally taken trumpeter swans will be seized by law enforcement, and criminal penalties may apply. The swan application waiting period remains in place, as well, if a hunter takes trumpeter swan: Youths who take a trumpeter swan must wait three years until they can apply for a tundra swan permit, and adults five years. See page 43 for more information about this rule.

License required to apply for permits: Before you can apply for tundra swan, greater sage-grouse, sandhill crane and sharp-tailed grouse permits in the hunt drawing, you must have a valid hunting or combination license. See page 11 for details.

Apply in a youth-only group for crane and swan permits: Up to four youth may apply together for sandhill crane and tundra swan permits in a youth-only group. For details on applying as part of a youth-only group, see page 16.

Download guidebooks and more to your DWR mobile app: You can now download Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks using your Utah DWR mobile app. The app makes it easy to read, search and navigate this guidebook and others. You can keep your hunting or combo license, your HIP number, digital duck stamp, and any DWR course completion certificates on the app, too. Learn more about the app and download it at wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp. **Note:** You must still carry any printed permit with you in the field.

No permanent blinds on WMAs: Individuals may not construct permanent blinds on waterfowl management areas. For more information about using blinds, see page 25.

AIS requirements for all boaters: To prevent the destructive spread of invasive quagga mussels, both resident and nonresident boaters have Aquatic Invasive Species program annual requirements prior to launch in Utah's waters. Owners of both nonmotorized and motorized vessels must complete the free DWR mussel-aware boater course (wildlife.utah.gov/quaggacourse) each calendar year. All motorized watercraft then enroll in the Utah AIS vessel program (dwrapps.utah.gov/vesselreg) to purchase a current-year boat decal. Learn more about these requirements and how to decontaminate your watercraft at STDoftheSea.utah.gov.

Trail cameras and night-vision devices: From July 31 to Dec. 31, trail cameras (or other non-handheld devices) are prohibited on public land, and it is unlawful to possess night-vision devices while locating big game. The sale or purchase of trail camera footage in the take—or attempted take—of big game, bears or cougars is prohibited. Trail cameras that utilize internal data storage may be used on private property. See the information box on page 27 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for details.

Plan your hunt: The Utah Hunt Planner is an online tool you can use to prepare for your next hunt. See in-depth details about Utah's waterfowl management areas and other useful information at hunt.utah.gov.

Youth hunting age: To be considered a youth for all waterfowl hunting, you must be 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2025.

Retrieving waterfowl: Before hunting in an area, make sure you can retrieve the birds you shoot. Because of mud or deep water, you may need chest waders, a dog or a boat. Not attempting to retrieve your waterfowl could result in a citation.

Report poachers: Use the UTDWR law enforcement app or text 847411 from your mobile device to report wildlife-related crimes. For details about these and other options, see the information box on page 45 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/utip.

Trial hunting program: People who haven't hunted may be able to try it for the first time without taking Hunter Education. For details, see the box on page 11.

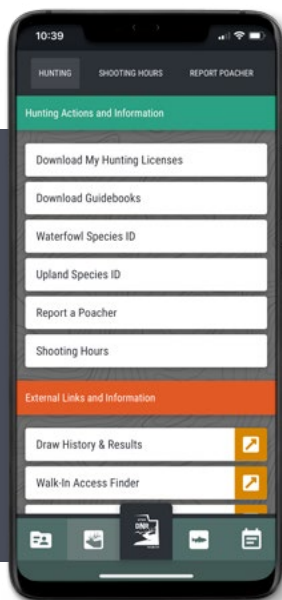
Points options for active, deployed military personnel

If you are an active, deployed member of the military, you can purchase a bonus or preference point, even if you missed an application period while deployed.

The Division will also waive the required combination or hunting license fee when you make that point purchase. To qualify for these exemptions, a military member must:

- Be a resident of Utah
- Be deployed for 90 days or longer outside of Utah on federal orders from military command
- Not have previously received a bonus or preference point for the species and hunt type in the same year
- Otherwise be eligible to receive a bonus or preference point
- Pay a \$10 application fee per point received
- Submit an application for the exemption to the Division no later than Dec. 31 of the qualifying year of being deployed

For additional information and the application form, visit wildlife.utah.gov/military.



UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Hunting & Fishing App

Keep regulations, licenses, season dates and other hunting resources at your fingertips!



Available for **FREE** for both iOS and Android devices. Learn more at wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp

Participate in the Waterfowl Slam:

The slam is a fun, voluntary program that raises funds for waterfowl conservation. Adults can join for \$20, and youth can join for \$10. To learn more, visit page 44 or wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl-slam.

Points options for military members:

Active military personnel may be eligible to take advantage of points opportunities if they are deployed during the 2025 application period for tundra swan, crane and grouse permits. For details, see the information box on page 6 or visit wildlife.utah.gov/military.

No shooting or hunting on Antelope Island:

Antelope Island remains a no-shooting area. For details, see page 29.

Off-highway vehicles: Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on state waterfowl management areas, except in areas that are posted open to OHV use.

Burning phragmites during the hunt:

This fall, as conditions permit, the Division may burn phragmites at a few waterfowl management areas. To stay up to date on any work on WMAs that may impact your hunt, visit x.com/UtahDWR.

Corrections: If errors are found in this guidebook after it is printed, the Division will correct them in the electronic copy that is posted online. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks to view all of the Division's guidebooks.

Private lands: The Division cannot guarantee access to any private land. You must obtain documented permission from the landowner or the landowner's authorized representative before hunting on private lands. For more information, please see *Trespassing* on page 29.

Protection from discrimination: The Division receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any facility, program, or activity, or if you need more information, please write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Division funding: The Division is mostly funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and through federal aid made possible by an excise tax on the sale of firearms and other hunting- and fishing-related equipment.

Maps available online

Looking for maps and boundary descriptions for Utah's hunting areas for ducks, geese, tundra swan, sandhill crane and more? You'll find them online at hunt.utah.gov.

Maps of Utah's waterfowl management areas and national wildlife refuges are available at wildlife.utah.gov/maps.

KEY DATES AND FEES

2025–26 season dates

American crow	Sept. 1–30, 2025 and Dec. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026
Band-tailed pigeons	Sept. 1–14, 2025
Mourning doves and white-winged doves	Sept. 1–Oct. 30, 2025
Sandhill crane	Dates vary by area; see page 41
Youth Waterfowl Hunt—Northern Zone (see page 38 for details)	Sept. 20, 2025
Youth Waterfowl Hunt—Southern Zone (see page 38 for details)	Sept. 27, 2025
Tundra swan	Oct. 4–Dec. 14, 2025
Ducks, mergansers, coots and snipe—Northern Zone	Oct. 4, 2025–Jan. 17, 2026
Ducks, mergansers, coots and snipe—Southern Zone	Oct. 11, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026
Scaup—Northern Zone	Oct. 4–Dec. 28, 2025
Scaup—Southern Zone	Oct. 31, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026
Dark* and white-fronted geese—Eastern Box Elder goose area	Oct. 4, 2025–Jan. 17, 2026
Dark* and white-fronted geese—Northern goose area	Oct. 4–11, 2025 and Oct. 27, 2025–Jan. 31, 2026
Dark* and white-fronted geese—Southern goose area	Oct. 11, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026

Dark* and white-fronted geese—Wasatch Front goose area Oct. 4–11, 2025 and Nov. 10, 2025–Feb. 15, 2026

Light geese^—Eastern Box Elder, Northern and Wasatch Front goose areas Oct. 15–Dec. 22, 2025 and Feb. 2–March 10, 2026

Light geese^—Southern goose area (see page 39 for closure details) Oct. 25–Dec. 15, 2025 and Jan. 15–March 10, 2026

**Dark geese are any cackling, Canada or brant geese.*

^Light geese are snow, blue or Ross's geese.

Crane and swan application dates

Sandhill crane and tundra swan hunting application (available online) July 2, 2025

Application deadline July 16, 2025

Drawing results available July 31, 2025

Remaining permits go on sale, if available Aug. 7, 2025

Nonresident fee increase

In the 2025 session, the Utah Legislature authorized higher nonresident fees to help fund the purchase of large blocks of land for wildlife habitat and conservation. These nonresident fee increases begin July 1, 2025 for hunting, fishing and combination licenses, and Sept. 1, 2025 for hunting permits and application fees.

License fees

For a complete list of Utah's license and permit fees, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.
A 2.2% fee will apply for all online and in-person credit/debit card transactions.

License type	Age	Resident	Nonresident <i>starting July 1, 2025</i>
365-day hunting license	13 and under	\$11	\$44
	14–17	\$16	\$44
	18–64	\$40	\$144
	65+	\$31	\$144
365-day hunting license for disabled veterans <i>(see the box on page 19 for details)</i>	n/a	\$25.50	n/a
Multi-year hunting license (up to five years)	18-64	\$39 / year	\$143 / year
365-day combination* license	17 and under	\$20	\$58
	18–64	\$44	\$190
	65+	\$35	\$190
365-day combination* license for disabled veterans <i>(see the box on page 19 for details)</i>	n/a	\$28.50	n/a
Multi-year combination* license (up to five years)	18–64	\$43 / year	\$189 / year

* A combination license allows you to hunt or fish in Utah.

Permit and application fees

For a complete list of Utah's license and permit fees, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/fees.
A 2.2% transaction fee applies to all online and in-person credit/debit card transactions.

Permit	Resident	Nonresident <i>until Aug. 31, 2025</i>	Nonresident <i>starting Sept. 1, 2025</i>
Band-tailed pigeon permit	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sandhill crane permit	\$40	\$125	\$175
Tundra swan permit	\$40	\$125	\$175
Application fee	\$10	\$16	\$21

Duck stamp

Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (16 years of age and older). See page 12 for details and purchase options.	Price varies by purchase option, transaction fees may apply.
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BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Obtaining the proper hunting license and registering for a Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) number are important steps to complete before hunting migratory game birds in Utah. Depending on your age, you may also need a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). This section provides information about each of these items and how to obtain them.

Are you old enough?

Utah Code § 23A-4-1001

In Utah, there are no age restrictions for migratory game bird hunters. If you have passed a Division-approved hunter education course, then you can hunt migratory game birds in Utah, regardless of your age.

You are considered to be a youth hunter if you are 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2025.

Adults must accompany young hunters

Utah Code § 23A-4-708

While hunting with any weapon, a person under 14 years old must be accompanied by his or her parent, legal guardian or other responsible person who is 21 years of age or older and who has been approved by the parent or guardian.

A person at least 14 years old and under 16 years old must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age or older while hunting with any weapon.

The Division encourages adults to be familiar with hunter education guidelines or to complete the hunter education course before accompanying youth into the field.

While in the field, the youth and the adult must remain close enough for the adult to see and provide verbal assistance to the young hunter. Using electronic devices, such as two-way radios or cell phones, does not meet this requirement.

Is hunter education required?

Utah Code § 23A-4-1001 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-23

If you were born after Dec. 31, 1965, you must provide proof that you've passed a hunter education course approved by the Division before you can apply for or obtain a hunting license or a swan permit.

The only exception to this law is for individuals who are participating in the Division's Trial Hunting Program. You can find details about the program on the next page or by visiting wildlife.utah.gov/trial.

Proof of hunter education

You can prove that you've completed hunter education by obtaining a hunter education card (called a "blue card" in Utah) or if you have a verified hunter education number on file with the Division. The number is assigned when you complete hunter education and your blue card is issued.

How to take hunter education

To get started, you should visit wildlife.utah.gov/huntereducation. You'll see links to various traditional and online hunter education courses. Follow the instructions on the website to obtain a hunter education registration certificate (required) and to register for a course online.

If you need assistance, please contact your local Division office or call 801-538-4727.

When you finish the course, your instructor will verify your course completion in the online hunter education system. At that point, you will be able to apply for or obtain permits in

the Division's hunt drawing, and your hunter education registration certificate will become your hunting license.

Approximately four to six weeks after you complete the course, you will receive your blue card by mail.

You should also keep the following in mind:

- Hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.
- All hunting regulations, including season dates and bag limits, will apply.
- Hunters who are planning to hunt out of state should allow enough time for their hunter education card to arrive in the mail.

New to Utah?

If you become a Utah resident—and you've completed an approved hunter education course in another state, province or country—you must transfer your certification to the Division before you can buy a resident hunting license or be eligible to purchase a resident hunting permit. You can provide proof that you've completed a nationally recognized hunter education course at any DWR office, or by submitting the online form at wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-ed-transfer.

Do you have a license?

Utah Code § 23A-4-201

Before you can hunt migratory game birds in Utah—and apply for or obtain a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit—you must possess a valid hunting license or combination license.

Here's the difference between the two licenses:

- A hunting license allows you to hunt small game, including migratory game birds and upland game.
- A combination license allows you to fish and hunt small game in Utah. When you buy a combination license, you also get a price break compared to buying your hunting and fishing licenses separately.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program

Utah Admin. Rule R657-68

Have you ever wanted to bring your spouse, child or friend along on a hunt and give them a chance to try hunting? Now, they can join you on your next duck or goose hunt.

Utah's Trial Hunting Program allows anyone over the age of 12 to try hunting for up to three years—while accompanied by a licensed hunter over the age of 21—before taking a Hunter Education course.

The program applies to hunts for many different species, including ducks, geese and other waterfowl. To sign up for the program or to learn more about it, visit wildlife.utah.gov/trial.

To purchase a license, visit wildlife.utah.gov or call 801-538-4700. You can also visit a license agent or any Division office.

Remember: There are restrictions on fishing and hunting license purchasers for nonpayment of child support. For additional information—or to arrange a payment schedule—please contact the Office of Recovery Services at 801-536-8500.

You must carry your license with you while you're hunting, and you cannot alter your license, or transfer or lend it to another person.

Keep in mind that you can also use the Utah Hunting and Fishing app to legally carry hunting or combination licenses on a phone or tablet for all the members of your family. To download the app, visit wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp.

Do you need a federal stamp?

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-4

In addition to your hunting license, if you're 16 years old or older, you must obtain a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp. This stamp is commonly referred to as a duck stamp.

Either a traditional (printed) duck stamp or electronic (digital) duck stamp must be purchased each year before you go into the field to hunt. Duck stamps are valid July 1 through June 30 each hunting season.

Here are your options:

- **Printed stamp:** Purchase a physical (printed) duck stamp from your local post office, some license agents or by phone at 800-782-6724. **Note:** Duck stamps are not available at Division offices. After you buy a physical duck stamp, you must validate it by signing your name in ink across the face of the stamp. You must also carry your stamp with you while you're hunting (most hunters place their stamp on the back of their hunting license).
- **E-stamp and DWR app download:** Purchase an electronic duck stamp through the Division website (wildlife.utah.gov). If you purchase an e-duck stamp through the DWR website, you can download it to your Utah Hunting and Fishing app to show proof of purchase.
- **(New) Duckstamp.com and digital wallet download:** Purchase an electronic duck stamp through the third party vendor Amplex at duckstamp.com. If you purchase an e-duck stamp from Amplex, you can download it to your Google or Apple wallet. (Downloading it to the DWR app is not an option.)

Important: No duck stamp is necessary to hunt American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove or sandhill crane.

Note: If you purchase an electronic duck stamp, you'll receive a printed stamp in the mail after the migratory game birds season ends (after March 1), and the stamp will have an e-duck stamp watermark.

If you're 15 years of age or younger, you do not need a federal duck stamp to hunt migratory game birds, but if you turn 16 during the season, you must buy a stamp to hunt the remainder of the season.

Do you have a HIP number?

50 CFR 20.20 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-3

In addition to your license (and your duck stamp, if required), you must obtain a Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number every season.

The number you obtained last season is not valid for this season.

HIP numbers for the 2025–2026 season are valid March 11, 2025 through March 10, 2026.

A mobile-friendly process

To obtain a Utah HIP number, just visit wildlife.utah.gov/uthip online and complete a few brief questions.

You will need to provide information about any migratory game bird hunts you participated in during the 2024–2025 season.

When you complete the registration process, your new HIP number will appear on the screen. You can also choose to have it emailed to you.

If you need help while registering for a HIP number, or cannot apply for one online, please contact any Division office (see page 2) from Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Once you've obtained your HIP number, you must write the number in the space provided on your current hunting license.

You can also enter and save your HIP number on the Utah Hunting and Fishing app. The app is available at wildlife.utah.gov/mobileapp.

OBTAINING A PERMIT: TUNDRA SWAN, SANDHILL CRANE AND BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-22

After you meet the basic hunting requirements (see pages 10-12), you will need an additional permit to hunt band-tailed pigeons, sandhill crane or tundra swan before you head into the field. This section outlines the types of permits available, and explains how to apply for or obtain them. There are additional requirements for hunting tundra swan which must be met before you can apply, which are described here.

Types of permits

Utah Code §§ 23A-4-201 and 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-5

You must obtain a permit if you want to hunt the following migratory game birds:

- Band-tailed pigeon
- Sandhill crane (a one-bird permit)
- Tundra swan (a one-bird permit)

For each of the above species, you may only obtain one permit.

To hunt tundra swan or sandhill crane in Utah, you must draw a permit in the hunt drawing. You can apply for the drawing online at wildlife.utah.gov from July 2-16, 2025.

Prepare to apply for a permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-22

You must have a valid Utah hunting or combination license before you can apply for or obtain a band-tailed pigeon, sandhill crane or tundra swan permit. You must also have a valid hunting or combination license in order to hunt any migratory game bird species. If your hunting license expires before the hunting season ends, you'll have to buy a new license to hunt the remainder of the season.

Don't forget: You may also apply for greater sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse permits when you apply for a tundra swan or sandhill crane permit. For more information about grouse permits, see pages 12-16 of the 2025-26 *Utah Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook*.

Reminder: There are restrictions on fishing and hunting license purchasers for nonpayment of child support. For additional information—or to arrange a payment schedule—please contact the Office of Recovery Services at 801-536-8500.

Preference points

If you don't want to apply for a tundra swan or sandhill crane permit this year, but you want a better chance of drawing one next year, you can apply for a preference point instead (see page 16).

Complete the annual swan orientation course

Course required: The swan orientation course must be completed **each year before you apply** for a tundra swan permit or preference point.

The course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/SwanCourse and takes about 30 minutes to complete.

The swan orientation course provides information about swans, including information that will help you identify tundra swans and trumpeter swans in flight.

Important: The swan orientation course must be completed **each year** you apply for a tundra swan permit. Additionally, hunters who harvest a trumpeter swan will be unable to apply for a swan permit for several years. See the article on page 43 for details.

Reminder: You must also follow the mandatory harvest reporting rules listed on page 19, even if you do not harvest a tundra swan.

How to obtain a band-tailed pigeon permit

Band-tailed pigeon permits are available at wildlife.utah.gov and from license agents and Division offices, beginning July 31 at 8 a.m. MDT. See page 41 for band-tailed pigeon bag and possession limits.

How to obtain a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-22

Please note the following dates if you want to apply for a 2025 sandhill crane permit, tundra swan permit or preference point.

July 2: Apply online for a permit or preference point

Starting July 2, you may apply online for a sandhill crane permit, tundra swan permit or preference point. Both residents and nonresidents may apply. Groups of up to four adults or four youth may also apply. For more information, please see *Applying as a group* on page 16.

When you submit your application for crane or swan permit or a preference point, you will be charged a nonrefundable application fee.

You can buy your license from a license agent, a Division office or online at wildlife.utah.gov. You can also purchase your license by calling 801-538-4700.

The application fee is \$10 for residents and \$16 for nonresidents. A permit fee is charged only if you are successful in drawing a permit. The fee for a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit is \$40 for residents and \$125 for nonresidents.

If you purchase your hunting or combination license while applying for a crane or swan permit, you'll also be charged a license fee. See page 8 for a list of license fees.

Your credit card must be valid through September 2025. You can also use a pre-paid credit card. Please keep in mind that the Division is not responsible for any bank charges incurred for the use of credit or debit cards.

Warnings for tundra swan hunters

If you draw a tundra swan permit for the 2025 season, you should make every effort to take a tundra swan and **not** a trumpeter swan.

Important: Anyone applying for a tundra swan permit must complete the mandatory swan orientation course (at wildlife.utah.gov/SwanCourse) **each year** they apply.

Utah's allotment of swan permits is set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the swan season must close when 20 trumpeter swans are taken. See pages 43–44 for details.

As a result of repeated early swan hunt closures, the Utah Wildlife Board approved a rule making trumpeter swan harvest illegal. Intentionally or unintentionally taken trumpeter swans will be seized by law enforcement, and criminal penalties may apply. Additionally, hunters may not apply for a tundra swan hunting permit for several years if they take a trumpeter swan. The waiting period is as follows:

- Three years for youth
- Five years for an adult

Reminder: If the tundra swan hunt closes early and you haven't harvested, you will not be able to get a refund or get your preference points back.

Please make responsible hunting choices and don't jeopardize swan hunting opportunities for future hunters.

To change the credit or debit card associated with your application, call 801-538-4700 or visit utah-hunt.com.

Remember: A 2.2% transaction fee applies to all online and in-person credit/debit card transactions.

July 16: Deadline for permit and preference point applications

Your application for a sandhill crane permit, tundra swan permit or preference point must be submitted online no later than 11 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025. If you need help with your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025. A Division employee will be available to help you.

July 16: Deadline to edit or withdraw an application

If you make a mistake in your online permit application, simply go to utah-hunt.com and click the *View, Edit, and Withdraw* button at the bottom of the page. All edits must be made before 11 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025.

You must have your confirmation number, customer ID and date of birth in order to edit your application. You will not be charged any additional fees, unless you completely withdraw your application and resubmit.

If you need help with your online application, please call any Division office before 5 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025.

If you decide not to hunt tundra swan, you can withdraw your online permit application until 11 p.m. MDT on July 16, 2025.

Reminder: Any fees you submitted with your application are not refundable.

July 31: Drawing results available

You'll be notified of the drawing results by email on or before July 31, 2025. You can also learn your drawing results online or by calling 801-538-4700.

In order to protect your privacy—and to comply with governmental records access laws—you may obtain access to only your own drawing results.

August 7: Remaining permits available

If any permits remain after the hunt drawing, they will be available beginning Aug. 7, 2025. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl in early August to see purchase times and locations.

Store your digital license on the app

With our convenient Utah Hunting and Fishing app, you can download your hunting or combination license to your mobile device.

If a conservation officer asks to see your license, you can produce the digital copy, which is just as valid as a paper license.

If you use the app, you will be able to easily see when your license expires.

You can also use the app to:

- Enter and save your HIP number.
- Save your electronic duck stamp (if purchased through the DWR licensing portal).
- Download swan course or other DWR course completion certificates.
- Read, search and navigate this guidebook and others by downloading them to your app.

Download the Utah Hunting and Fishing app (available for Apple and Android devices) at wildlife.utah.gov/MobileApp.

Please remember that licenses are different from permits. If you have a permit for a specific hunt, you must carry it with you while hunting.

Reminder: If you obtain a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit that remains available after the hunt drawing, you will **lose** any accrued preference points.

Applying as a group

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-22

Up to four hunters—including a mix of residents and nonresidents—can apply together for sandhill crane or tundra swan permits by using a group code. Visit wildlife.utah.gov/group-applications for more information.

And don't forget: Up to four youth can apply together in a youth-only group.

Important: If you're a youth and you want an opportunity to draw one of the permits reserved for youth, do **not** apply in a group with an adult. Up to **four youth hunters** can apply together for a tundra swan hunt. For more details about tundra swan-hunting opportunities for youth, see page 42.

Preference points

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-9

Preference points ensure that applicants who are unsuccessful—or those who choose to apply only for a preference point—will have a better chance of obtaining a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit in next year's hunt drawing.

Important: You must complete the swan orientation course **each year** before you apply for a tundra swan preference point or permit. The course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/SwanCourse.

A preference point is awarded for each unsuccessful tundra swan application.

An individual who does not want to hunt sandhill crane or tundra swan in the current year may apply for a preference point only by selecting the appropriate hunt choice code (CRA for sandhill crane or SWN for tundra swan) on the application and paying the application fee.

If you are eligible for a tundra swan permit, you are eligible to apply for a preference point. You cannot, however, apply for both a permit and a preference point in the same season.

A preference point will not be issued if you are successful in drawing a permit.

Reminder: If you obtain a permit that remains available after the hunt drawing, you will **lose** any accrued preference points.

How your preference points work in the drawing

In the drawing, applications are sorted into groups by the number of preference points by permit type—a 4-preference-point group, a 3-preference-point group and so on—from highest to lowest. Within each group of preference points, the applications are then sorted from lowest to highest draw numbers. Permits are awarded in order, based on the hunt choice selected.

Preference points are averaged and rounded down when two or more applicants apply as a group. For example, if hunter A with three preference points and hunter B with zero preference points apply as a group, the preference points are averaged (1.5) and rounded down to one. This process will determine in which group of preference points your application will be considered. Hunters with one preference point will be considered only after all groups or individuals with two or more preference points and before all groups or individuals with zero preference points.

Surrendering your permit

If you need to surrender your permit—and your hunting season hasn't started—you should consider surrendering the permit as soon as possible. If you surrender early enough, you'll be able to keep your preference points.

Reminder: If you surrender a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit at least 30 days before the start of the season, you'll get all of your previously accrued preference points back, but you will not earn a point for the current year. **Important:** If you surrender a permit less than 30 days before the season opens, you will lose all of your

Crane and swan permits for youth

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-22

Fifteen percent of this year's sandhill crane and tundra swan hunting permits are reserved for hunters who will be 17 years of age or younger on July 31, 2025.

If you meet this age requirement, you can participate in the youth drawing for sandhill crane and tundra swan permits. You have two options: You can either submit an application as an individual youth hunter or as a member of a youth-only group.

Up to **four youth hunters** can apply to hunt together in a youth-only group. This allows youth to hunt with siblings, friends, cousins and other youth.

When you apply in a youth-only group for the sandhill crane or tundra swan hunt, all hunters must meet the age requirement for the application to be processed as a youth-only application.

If you're successful in drawing permits, please remember that all hunters under the age of 16 must be accompanied in the field by a parent, legal guardian or responsible person 21 years of age or older. For details on this requirement, see page 10.

previously accrued preference points for that permit type, and you will not earn a point for the current year.

To learn more about surrendering a permit, visit wildlife.utah.gov/refund.

Group surrender

Reminder: If you obtain a tundra swan permit through a group application—and then you decide to surrender it—you will not have your preference points reinstated unless your **entire** group meets the following conditions:

- All group members must surrender their permits
- Permit surrenders must occur at least 30 days before the start of the season

Note: Even if you meet the above conditions, you will not earn a point for the current year.

Important: If some of your group members surrender their permits **less than 30 days** from the season opener, **all** group members will lose **all** of their preference points.

Members of the group may not surrender their permits individually unless the surrender occurs because of:

- Activation in the military
- An injury or illness that will prevent the individual from hunting
- Death

Permit refunds

Utah Code § 23-19-38 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-42

The Division rarely issues refunds for permits, licenses or certificates of registration, but there are some exceptions. To see if you're eligible for a refund, visit wildlife.utah.gov/refund.

Reminder: If you are eligible for a refund, you must submit all required forms and accompanying paperwork within 90 days of the season ending in order to qualify for a full refund.

Important: Any original license, permit, tag or certificate of registration becomes invalid when surrendered or forfeited, or when a duplicate or exchanged one is issued.

AFTER YOUR SANDHILL CRANE OR TUNDRA SWAN HUNT

Utah Admin. Rule R657-62-22, R657-9-6, R657-9-7 and R657-54-11, and Utah Code § 23A-4-709

If you receive a sandhill crane or tundra swan permit in 2025, be sure to meet these requirements.

Tag your sandhill crane or tundra swan

Utah Code § 23A-4-709 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-5 and R657-54-11

After you've taken a sandhill crane or tundra swan, you must tag the bird.

Sandhill crane: You must tag the carcass of a sandhill crane immediately upon taking possession of the carcass.

Tundra swan: You may wait to tag the tundra swan until after you return to your blind, your boat (or other vessel) or dry land, whichever is nearest to the point where the bird was retrieved.

To tag a carcass, completely detach the tag from your hunting permit and completely remove the notches that correspond with the month and day the swan or crane was taken. Then, attach the tag to the carcass so the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

Your sandhill crane or tundra swan tag also includes a notch that indicates the sex of the bird, but you do not need to remove this notch; you only need to remove the notches that indicate when the bird was taken.

You may not remove more than one notch indicating the month or day the tundra swan was taken, or tag more than one carcass using the same tag.

Reminder: You may not hunt or pursue a crane or swan after any of the following has occurred:

- Shooting and retrieving the bird
- Detaching the tag from the permit
- Removing any of the notches from the tag

Check in your swan within 72 hours

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-7

Important: Within 72 hours of taking a tundra or trumpeter swan, you are required to check in the entire swan or its head at a DWR office (see page 2 for locations and office hours) or the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge office (Fridays and Saturdays only, 9 a.m.–noon and 2–7 p.m.).

Complete your online harvest report

New: Prior to or at the time of swan check in, you must complete your harvest survey in order to finish the swan check-in process. You can submit a harvest survey online at wildlife.utah.gov/harvest, or call any Division office for assistance.

Remember: Taking trumpeter swans is illegal and penalties may apply. At the mandatory swan check, Division or Refuge staff may inform you if a trumpeter swan was taken. In such cases, a conservation officer will follow up and may take further action.

The several-year waiting period for applying for a tundra swan permit still applies. For details, see page 43.

Important: There are no harvest reporting or check-in requirements for hunters who have a sandhill crane permit.

Mandatory reporting

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-7

If you obtain a tundra swan permit, you must complete and submit the mandatory harvest survey by Jan. 13, 2026.

Important: Harvest reporting is required within 30 days of the end of the swan hunt, even if you did not hunt or take a swan. You can complete the harvest survey online at wildlife.utah.gov/harvest, or call any Division office for assistance. (**New:** The harvest reporting phone hotline has been discontinued.)

Swan check-in: If you harvest any swan, you are required to check in the entire swan or its head within 72 hours at a DWR office (see page 2) or the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge office (Fridays and Saturdays only, 9 a.m.–noon and 2–7 p.m.).

New: Hunters must complete their online harvest report prior to or at the time of check-in (wildlife.utah.gov/harvest).

What if I miss the deadline?

If you miss the Jan. 13 reporting deadline, you will be ineligible to apply for another crane or swan permit in 2026 unless you:

- Get the head of your harvested swan examined at a Division office (**not required for cranes**)
- Complete and submit a late harvest survey
- Pay a \$50 late fee (plus a 2.2% credit/debit card transaction fee)

Remember: If you did not harvest a tundra swan, you would only be required to complete the last two items before applying for a 2026 tundra swan permit. Harvest reporting requirements apply even if you did not hunt or take a swan.

Discounted licenses for disabled veterans

The Division offers discounted hunting and combination licenses to Utah veterans who were disabled in the line of duty.

All discounted license fees are listed in the table on page 8. Licenses are available online or from all DWR offices listed on page 2.

To purchase a discounted hunting or combination license, you must be a Utah resident and have a qualifying service-connected disability of at least 20 percent.

To apply for a license online, please visit wildlife.utah.gov/disabledvet and complete the online form. If you need assistance, please call the nearest Division office.

If you choose to visit a DWR office to purchase your license, simply bring the verification of service-connected disability documentation that the Department of Veterans Affairs issued to you.

You can find additional resources for hunters and anglers with disabilities at wildlife.utah.gov/disabled-access.

Participate in DWR surveys

After your migratory game bird hunting season ends, the Division may email you to request your participation in an online survey. (This request will be different from and in addition to your annual HIP survey.)

Although the DWR surveys are not mandatory, we encourage you to complete them, even if you didn't harvest. The surveys help the Division evaluate population trends, gauge harvest success and collect other valuable information.

FIELD REGULATIONS

While hunting migratory game birds in Utah, there are several requirements you must keep in mind to protect yourself and the resource. Please be familiar with the requirements for carrying and using shotguns, the different types of hunting methods you may use and what you're required to do with any migratory game birds you harvest.

Firearms, crossbows and archery tackle

Several rules apply to the types of shotguns, crossbows and archery tackle that may be used to take migratory game birds in Utah.

Weapon requirements

50 CFR 20.21 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-8

You may take migratory game birds with any of the following:

- A shotgun no larger than 10 gauge
- A crossbow
- Archery equipment, including a draw lock

During most Utah migratory game bird hunts, the shotgun you use cannot be capable of holding more than three shells (one in the chamber and two in the magazine).

Many shotguns can hold more than two shells in the magazine, but making these guns legal for migratory game bird hunting is easy. An inexpensive item, called a "shotgun plug," comes with most shotguns or you can purchase one at most sporting goods stores.

And don't forget: You may use an unplugged shotgun—capable of holding more than three shells—to hunt light geese during the February–March season. For season dates, see page 39.

Important: Sandhill crane may be taken only with nontoxic shot, but there's no restriction on the size of the nontoxic shot you may use (to learn more about nontoxic shot, please see the next section in this guidebook).

In addition to the requirements above, you may NOT use any of the following:

- A handgun
- A firearm capable of being fired fully automatic
- Any light-enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light
- Aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device

Nontoxic shot and use of firearms, crossbows and archery tackle

50 CFR 20.21(j) and Utah Admin. Rules R657-9-8 and R657-9-9

A shotgun loaded with nontoxic shot is the only firearm you may discharge while hunting sandhill crane, waterfowl or coot in any area of the state. (To learn what nontoxic shot is, please see page 68 of this guide.) In addition, nontoxic shot is the only ammunition you may have in your possession while on federal refuges, the Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands

Are you allowed to possess a weapon?

Utah Code §§ 76-11-302 and 76-11-303

It is illegal under *Utah Code §§ 76-11-302* and *76-11-303* to possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader or any other dangerous weapon if you have been charged or convicted of certain offenses.

The purchase or possession of any hunting license, permit, tag or certificate

of registration from the Division does not authorize the holder to legally possess or use a firearm, muzzleloader or any other dangerous weapon while hunting if they are otherwise restricted from possessing these weapons under Utah Code.

To determine whether you are allowed to possess a weapon, please review the Utah Code sections listed above or contact the law enforcement agency that oversees your case.

Preserve, the Utah Lake Wetland Preserve, Willard Spur WMA and the following waterfowl management areas:

- Box Elder County—Harold S. Crane, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek
- Daggett County—Brown's Park
- Davis County—Farmington Bay, Howard Slough and Ogden Bay
- Emery County—Desert Lake
- Juab County—Mills Meadow
- Millard County—Clear Lake and Topaz Slough
- Sanpete County—Manti Meadows
- Tooele County—Blue Lake and Timpie Springs
- Uintah County—Stewart Lake
- Utah County—Powell Slough and Provo River Delta
- Wayne County—Bicknell Bottoms
- Weber County—Ogden Bay and Harold S. Crane

You may not discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle on any of the areas listed above at any time of the year, except during the open migratory game bird hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division.

Loaded firearms in a vehicle

Utah Code §§§§ 76-11-102, 53-5a-3, 76-11-204 and 53-5a-108

You may not carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle unless you meet all of the following conditions:

- You own the vehicle or have permission from the vehicle's owner.
- The firearm is a handgun.
- You are 18 years of age or older.

A pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun is considered to be loaded when there is an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile in the firing position.

Make sure you're in range

In the marsh, you should only shoot at birds that are within range. If you try to hit a bird that's too far away, there's a much greater chance the bird will be wounded or hard to find.

So, how do you know if you're in range? Before this year's waterfowl season opens, you can improve your ability to judge distance accurately with the following exercise:

- Find an area that's at least 50 yards long and place four regular-sized duck decoys 20, 30, 40 and 50 yards from your starting point.
- If you don't have four regular-sized decoys, use four pieces of cardboard cut 21 inches long by 4 inches high (the size of a medium-sized duck).
- After placing your targets, go back to your starting point, bring your unloaded shotgun to your shoulder and aim it at the target that's 20 yards away. Notice how big your barrel looks in relation to the size of the target. Then aim at the targets that are 30, 40 and 50 yards away.

Practice this process enough, and you'll know how birds should look when you view them over your barrel at different distances in the marsh.

Pistols and revolvers are also considered to be loaded when an unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile is in a position whereby the manual operation of any mechanism once would cause the unexpended cartridge, shell or projectile to be fired.

A muzzleloading firearm is considered loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinders.

Areas where you can't discharge a firearm

Utah Code § 76-11-208

You may not discharge a dangerous weapon or firearm under any of the following circumstances:

- From a vehicle
- From, upon or across any highway
- At power lines or signs
- At railroad equipment or facilities, including any sign or signal
- Within Utah state park camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps or developed beaches
- Without written permission from the owner or property manager, within 600 feet of:
 - A house, dwelling or any other building
 - Any structure in which a domestic animal is kept or fed, including a barn, poultry yard, corral, feeding pen or stockyard

State parks

Utah Code § 76-11-208 and Utah Admin. Rule R651-614-4

Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas, **except** those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Utah Division of State Parks in *Utah Admin. Rule R651-614*. For more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/resources/hunting-at-state-parks.

State laws regarding the possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting. For information about discharging a dangerous weapon or firearm in a state park, see the *Areas where you cannot discharge a firearm* section above or review *Utah Code § 76-11-208*.

No drones allowed

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14

The use of any type of aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device to locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife is prohibited. This includes scouting and hunting.

In addition to the rules above, the Great Salt Lake Marina and posted areas adjacent to the marina are closed to hunting.

Waterfowl hunting, including the retrieval of downed birds, is also prohibited on all of Antelope Island, including all areas within 600 feet of the upland vegetative line or any other clearly defined high water mark. Hunting is also prohibited within 600 feet of the north or south side of the Antelope Island causeway.

Hunters with disabilities

Utah Admin. Rule R657-12

Utah provides special hunting accommodations for people with disabilities. Among those accommodations are special-use blinds for disabled or wheelchair-bound hunters.

For more information, call a local Division office (see page 2) or visit wildlife.utah.gov/disabled.

Hunting methods

Several rules apply to the methods that you may use to hunt waterfowl in Utah.

Commercial guiding and outfitting in Utah

Utah Code § 23A-4-1201 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-72

New: Effective July 1, 2025, guides and outfitters in Utah are now regulated by the DWR (instead of the Department of Professional Licensing) as approved by the Utah Legislature. If you are a guide, outfitter or spotter, visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/guides for important information about the licensing application, registration fees and other operational requirements.

Important: Additional special-use permit requirements for guiding at waterfowl and wildlife management areas may apply. See page 25 of this guidebook or visit *wildlife.utah.gov/WMAguiding* for details.

Use of boats, and airborne and land vehicles

50 CFR 20.21(e), Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-10

You may use a boat or motorized aquatic vehicle to hunt migratory game birds if you obey the following rules:

- Migratory game birds may not be taken from any motorboat, or craft that has a motor attached to it, unless the motor has been completely shut off and the motorboat or craft has stopped moving.
- Migratory game birds may not be taken from a sailboat unless the boat's sails are furled and the boat has stopped moving.

You may use any of these crafts under power to retrieve dead or crippled birds, but you may not shoot crippled birds from a craft if its motor is still running.

Also, you may not use any of the crafts listed above, or any type of motor-driven land, water or air transportation (including a drone), to concentrate, drive, rally or stir up migratory birds.

Airboats and personal watercraft

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-13

Air-thrust or air-propelled boats and personal watercraft are not allowed in designated parts of the following areas for the purposes of migratory game bird hunting:

- Box Elder County: Box Elder Lake, Bear River, that part of Harold S. Crane within one-half mile of all dikes and levees, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek and any posted units or areas within the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.
- Daggett County: Brown's Park
- Davis County: Howard Slough, Ogden Bay and Farmington Bay within diked units or as posted.
- Emery County: Desert Lake
- Millard County: Clear Lake and Topaz Slough
- Tooele County: Timpie Springs
- Uintah County: Stewart Lake
- Utah County: Powell Slough and Provo River Delta

Did it get wet? Decontaminate it!

When you hunt waterfowl, your boat, apparel and gear inevitably get wet or muddy.

And everything from your waders and decoys to your portable blinds and boat motors will provide good hiding places for aquatic invasive species (AIS) like quagga mussels, whirling disease spores or fast-spreading watermilfoil plants.

If you're on foot, you need to complete the following steps before you leave a hunting area and walk into another waterbody.

1. Rinse all the mud and other debris off of your waders, boots and wetted gear or equipment.
2. Then, generously spray all of it—especially the felt soles of waders—with Formula 409 (a popular household cleaner). This treatment will kill any whirling disease spores.
3. After you return home, thoroughly clean and dry all of your gear before using it again.

Remember: If it floats, it's a boat!

If you launch any kind of vessel—including kayaks and canoes—you must complete the annual Mussel-aware Boater course (wildlife.utah.gov/QuaggaCourse) and follow the state's clean, drain and dry requirements.

Important: Boaters using motorized vessels have additional AIS program vessel enrollment requirements and must have a current-year decal displayed on their vessel. See STDOfttheSea.utah.gov for details.

If you don't have time to allow your boat to dry thoroughly, you can get it professionally decontaminated. Visit STDOfttheSea.utah.gov to find the nearest location and schedule a decontamination.

- Wayne County: Bicknell Bottoms
- Weber County: Ogden Bay within diked units or as posted, and the portion of the Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area that falls within Weber County

Boating laws and rules

If your hunting plans include a motorboat, please remember these laws and rules to ensure your safe, legal return home:

- Everyone on your boat or vessel must have a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Youth who are 12 and younger must wear a life jacket at all times.
- Vessels longer than 16 feet must have a throwable personal flotation device immediately available.
- All motorboats, including those with electric motors, must be registered and properly numbered.

Remember: Motorized craft must be enrolled in the Utah AIS program and have a current-year decal (see *STDotheSea.utah.gov* for details).

- All motorboats must display appropriate navigation lights from sunset to sunrise. Manually propelled boats may use a white light.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return, along with your boat and vehicle license number.
- All motorboats must carry a Type B, U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher, unless exempt.
- In addition to the equipment above, airboats operating on Great Salt Lake and adjacent waterfowl management areas must have a compass and either a flare, strobe light or other visual distress signal.

For more boating safety information, visit boating.utah.gov or call 801-538-2628.

The term "personal watercraft" means a motorboat that meets the following conditions:

- It is less than 16 feet in length.
- It is propelled by a water jet pump.
- It is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than sitting or standing inside the vessel.

Restrictions on motorized boats

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-13

Portions of four WMAs have been set aside for hunters who enjoy walking or paddling nonmotorized boats into the marsh. Motorized boats, which are boats with a motor of any kind, including a gas engine or an electric motor, are not allowed in the following areas:

- Clear Lake: The entire WMA
- Farmington Bay: South Crystal Unit
- Harold S. Crane: Rainbow Pond Unit and the main East Pond Unit
- Public Shooting Grounds: Wigeon Lake

Motorized vehicle access on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-14

A motorized vehicle is a vehicle that is self-propelled or possesses the ability to be self-propelled. This does not include vehicles moved solely by human power, motorized wheelchairs or an electric personal assisted mobility device.

Reminder: Electric-assisted bicycles, propelled in part by electrical assistance, are only permitted on state waterfowl management areas if they meet the Class 1 definition provided in *Utah Code § 41-6a-102(8)* and (17).

Motorized vehicle travel on state waterfowl management areas is restricted to county roads, improved roads and parking areas.

Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on state waterfowl management areas, except in areas that are marked or posted open to their use.

Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

Waterfowl blinds on waterfowl management areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-34

Reminder: You may **not** construct a new permanent blind on a waterfowl management area.

You can construct and use waterfowl blinds on Division waterfowl management areas (WMAs) as long as you obey the following rules:

- Waterfowl blinds may not be left unattended overnight unless they're constructed entirely of non-woody, vegetative materials that naturally occur where the blind is located.
- Live or dead-standing trees and shrubs on WMAs may not be cut or damaged unless the Division gives express, written permission to do so.
- Soil or rock, above or below the water's surface, may not be excavated on a WMA unless the Division gives express, written permission to do so.
- Rock and soil material may not be transported to a WMA to construct a blind.
- Waterfowl blinds may not be constructed or used in any area or manner that obstructs vehicle or pedestrian travel on dikes.

Waterfowl blinds that are constructed or maintained on WMAs in violation of the rules above may be removed or destroyed by the Division without notice.

The restrictions above do not apply to the following WMA areas:

- Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area—west and north of the Doug Miller Unit, Turpin Unit and Unit 1.
- Howard Slough Waterfowl Management Area—west and south of the exterior dike separating the WMA's freshwater impoundments from the Great Salt Lake.
- Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area—west of Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3.
- Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area—one half mile north and west of the exterior dike separating the WMA's freshwater impoundments from the Willard Spur.

Unattended blinds

In addition to the rules previously outlined, two other important rules apply to waterfowl blinds on WMAs and other state lands that are open to public hunting:

- Any person may use any unoccupied, permanent waterfowl blind. Waterfowl blinds on state lands are open on a first-come, first-served basis to everyone, not just to the person who built the blind.
- You cannot leave waterfowl blinds or decoys unattended overnight to reserve a spot.

Sinkbox

50 CFR 20.21(c) and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-13

You cannot take migratory game birds from any type of low-floating device that allows you to be concealed beneath the surface of the water. Called "sinkboxes," these devices float on the water, but they float barely above the water's surface. You may not hunt from sinkboxes. You may, however, hunt from other types of boxes, blinds or culverts that are attached to the bottom of the body of water where you are hunting.

Commercial guiding on waterfowl management areas

Utah Code § 23A-12-302 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-28-8

Guides and outfitters are required to have a special-use permit before guiding or transporting hunters across waterfowl management areas. This change applies to anyone who receives more than \$100 in compensation for providing guiding services, as defined in *Utah Code 58-79-102*.

Details about requirements and how to obtain a permit are available at wildlife.utah.gov/WMAguiding. Remember, SUP applications are due by the end of August to be valid for this season's hunts.

Important: A special-use permit for guiding on WMAs is required **in addition to** the statewide licensing requirements for guides, outfitters and spotters noted on page 22.

Hunting dog field trials and training

Utah Admin. Rule R657-46

Many hunting dog field trialers and trainers want to use game birds (waterfowl or upland game) in their dog-related pursuits.

To use live game birds in dog field trials and training, you must follow certain rules and regulations. Those rules are available at any Division office or in *Utah Admin. Rule R657-46* at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Important: Dog training is prohibited near sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse leks (breeding sites) from March 1 to May 31.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/licenses/guides for more information about licensing requirements, the certificate of registration application and other FAQs.

Using dogs to hunt

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-30

Dogs may be used off leash to locate and retrieve waterfowl during open hunting seasons.

Although dogs are generally allowed on state wildlife and waterfowl management areas, they are prohibited on many WMAs from March 10 to August 31 or as posted by the Division. Here's a complete list of WMAs and other Division-managed lands that are seasonally closed to dogs:

- Annabella
- Bear River (Trenton Property Parcel)
- Bicknell Bottoms
- Blue Lake
- Browns Park
- Bud Phelps
- Clear Lake
- Desert Lake
- Farmington Bay
- Harold S. Crane
- Hatt's Ranch
- Howard Slough
- Huntington

- James Walter Fitzgerald
- Kevin Conway
- Locomotive Springs
- Manti Meadows
- Mills Meadow
- Montes Creek
- Nephi
- Ogden Bay
- Pahvant
- Public Shooting Grounds
- Redmond Marsh
- Richfield
- Roosevelt
- Salt Creek
- Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve
- Stewart Lake
- Timpie Springs
- Topaz Slough
- Utah Lake Wetland Preserve
- Vernal Game Farm
- Willard Bay

Live decoys

50 CFR 20.21(f) and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-16

You may not use live birds as decoys. Also, you may not take migratory game birds from an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present.

The only exception is if the tame or captive live ducks or geese are—and have been—confined for at least 10 consecutive days before you take the migratory game birds. The area of confinement must substantially reduce the sound of the tame or captive birds' calls. It must also totally conceal the birds from the sight of wild migratory game birds.

Amplified (electronic) bird calls

50 CFR 20.21 (g) and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-17

You may not take migratory game birds with recorded or electronically amplified migratory game bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of migratory game bird calls or sounds.

During most of Utah's migratory game bird hunting seasons, you may not use recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. You may, however, use electronically amplified calls or sounds during the spring hunts for light geese in the Eastern Box Elder, Southern and Northern goose areas after Feb. 1, 2026, and the Wasatch Front goose area after Feb. 16, 2026. See page 39 for season dates.

No drones allowed

Utah Code § 23A-5-309 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-14

The use of any type of aircraft, drone or other airborne vehicle or device to locate, or attempt to observe or locate, any protected wildlife is prohibited. This includes scouting and hunting.

Baiting

50 CFR 20.21 (i) and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-18

Baiting is an illegal activity that involves the spreading of shelled, shucked or unshucked grain, feed or salt to lure, attract or entice birds to an area for the purposes of hunting them. You may not hunt any migratory game birds by baiting, and you may not hunt in an area where you reasonably should have known that the area is or has been baited.

An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the bait has been completely removed from the area.

You may NOT take migratory game birds on or over lands or areas where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of the manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown. However, you may take snipe on or over these areas.

Nothing in this guidebook prohibits you from harvesting migratory game birds on land with residual crops or feed left as a result of normal agricultural practices.

You also may take migratory game birds on or over the following lands or areas, as long as these areas have not been baited:

Trail cameras and night-vision devices

Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-7 and Utah Code § 23A-5-307

Since 2022, there have been several Utah Wildlife Board and legislative updates regarding the use of trail cameras and night-vision devices. Some of these rules may affect waterfowl and migratory game bird hunters, especially those who are also planning to hunt big game, cougars or bears.

- All trail cameras are prohibited on public land from July 31 to Dec. 31 (with exceptions for approved research and monitoring).
- A trail camera using internal data storage—and not capable of transmitting live data—is permitted for use on private land for the purposes of legal hunting.
- The sale or purchase of footage or data from any trail camera (or non-handheld device) that could be used to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of big game, cougars or bears is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to possess any type of night-vision device while locating, taking or attempting to locate big game from July 31 to Dec. 31.

Learn more about these and other prohibited hunting methods on page 22 of this guidebook. See page 67 for definitions.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/trailcams for more information about these rules.

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation (for example, a farmer working his land after the harvest is over) or normal soil stabilization practice (for example, a farmer planting a cover crop to protect the soil during the winter);
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds.

Falconry

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-33 and R657-6-12

If you are a falconer interested in hunting migratory game birds, you must obtain the following:

- A hunting or combination license
- A HIP number
- A federal migratory game bird stamp (also called a “duck stamp”)
- A falconry certificate of registration (COR)

Important: Falconers intending to hunt band-tailed pigeon, sandhill crane or tundra swan must obtain a permit for the bird(s) they wish to hunt. See page 13 for permit application dates and other requirements.

Legal falconry hours for migratory game bird hunting are 30 minutes before official sunrise until official sunset (see the tables beginning on page 46).

The season dates, areas open, and the bag and possession limits for falconry are listed in the section beginning on page 38.

For additional information about falconry rules and requirements, and to obtain or renew a falconry COR, please see the Falconry Rule at wildlife.utah.gov/falconry.

Rest areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-32

Unless you have prior permission from the Division, you may access and use state waterfowl management areas (WMAs) only during the hunting season or for other activities for which the WMAs have been posted open. While you're on a WMA, you may not participate in activities that are prohibited on the WMA.

In addition to the rules above, the Division has established portions of the WMAs as rest areas for wildlife. These areas are closed to the public, and trespass of any kind is prohibited. The following locations are designated as rest areas:

- Clear Lake WMA—the area known as Spring Lake
- Desert Lake WMA—the area known as Desert Lake
- Farmington Bay WMA—the area that lies in the northwest quarter of Unit 1
- Ogden Bay WMA—the area known as North Bachman
- Public Shooting Grounds WMA—the area that lies above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike, known as Duck Lake
- Salt Creek WMA—the area known as Rest Lake

You can obtain maps of the rest areas by visiting Division offices or by visiting wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl.

Farmington Bay WMA buffer zones

Hunters should be aware that there are 150-foot no hunting/no trespassing buffer zones on several portions of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area. Please check the Hunt Planner (hunt.utah.gov) for details before going into the field, and heed all signage in the area while hunting.

No-shooting areas

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-32

The Division has designated certain portions of the state as no-shooting areas. In these areas, the discharge of weapons for the purpose of hunting is prohibited. No-shooting areas remain open to the public for other lawful activities.

The following locations are designated as no-shooting areas:

- All of Antelope Island—This includes all areas within 600 feet of the upland vegetative line or other clearly defined high water mark
- Antelope Island causeway—Within 600 feet of the north and south sides of the center line of the causeway
- Brown's Park WMA—Within 600 feet of all structures
- Farmington Bay WMA—Within 600 feet of the headquarters, within 600 feet of dikes and roads accessible by motorized vehicles, within the area designated as the Hasenyager Nature Preserve and within the 100-yard retrieval zone around the rest area
- Ogden Bay WMA—Within 600 feet of the headquarters area
- Gunnison Bend Reservoir—Below the high-water mark of the reservoir and its inflow, upstream to the Southerland Bridge (Millard County)
- Within the boundaries of all Utah State Parks, except those designated open by appropriate signage (see *Utah Administrative Rule R651-614-4*)

- Within 1/3 of a mile of the Great Salt Lake Marina
- All property within the boundary of the Salt Lake International Airport
- All property within the boundaries of federal migratory bird refuges, unless hunting waterfowl is specifically authorized by the federal government

Trespassing

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-317 and 23A-5-310

While taking wildlife or engaging in wildlife-related activities, you may not—without permission—enter or remain on privately owned land that is:

- Cultivated
- Properly posted
- Fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders

In addition, you may not:

- Enter or remain on private land when directed not to do so by the owner or a person acting for the owner.
- Obstruct any entrance or exit to private property.

“Cultivated land” is land that is readily identifiable as land whose soil is loosened or broken up for the raising of crops, land used for the raising of crops, or a pasture that is artificially irrigated.

“Permission” means documented authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private land that is cultivated or properly posted. Permission must include all of the following details:

- The signature of the owner or person in charge
- The name of the person being given permission
- The appropriate dates
- A general description of the land

“Properly posted” means that signs prohibiting trespass—or bright yellow, bright orange or fluorescent paint—are clearly displayed at all corners, on fishing streams crossing prop-

Keep your hunting dog safe from HABs

Harmful algal blooms (known as HABs) can persist throughout the fall and winter. HABs produce toxins and pose a threat to humans and animals, especially dogs.

Important: Before you head out into the field, visit habs.utah.gov to see if HABs have been reported in the area you plan to hunt. Please be advised that active monitoring for HABs ends in October, although a HAB may be present in recreational areas.

What are HABs and how can I identify affected areas?

HABs form when naturally occurring cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, multiply to high densities and form visible water discoloration, scum and/or mats. HABs can look like pea soup, spilled paint, grass clippings, fuzzy nodules or mucousy floating mats.

HABs can produce toxins that affect liver, nerve and skin tissue. If you suspect a HAB in the water, stay out of the water and avoid contact with any scum or mats.

Keep your dog safe

Hunters should keep their dogs away if they suspect HABs. HAB toxin exposure can be deadly for dogs! Dogs can be exposed to toxins by swimming or splashing in water experiencing a HAB. Dogs are attracted by the musty smell of HAB mats and may seek them out and eat them. Even dried HAB material may have harmful toxins present.

If you suspect your dog has been exposed to a HAB, seek immediate care from your veterinarian. Preventing exposure is the best way to protect your dog.

Preparing harvested game

Before consuming any harvested fish or wildlife from an area with HABs present, be sure to clean waterfowl and fish well with fresh water, and discard all guts.

Report HABs

Suspected harmful algal blooms can be reported to DWQ by calling 801-536-4123. Find more information about harmful algal blooms at habs.utah.gov.

erty lines, and on roads, gates and rights-of-way entering the land. Or, they are displayed in a manner that is visible to a person in the area.

You may not post private property you do not own or legally control or land that is open to the public as provided by *Utah Code* § 23A-6-402. In addition, it is unlawful to take protected wildlife or its parts while trespassing in violation of *Utah Code* § 23A-5-317.

You are guilty of a class B misdemeanor if you violate any provision described in this section. Your license, tag or permit privileges may also be suspended.

Possession and transportation

Once you've taken a migratory game bird, several rules apply to the use of the game you've taken.

During closed season

50 CFR 20.32 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-19

You may not possess any freshly killed migratory game birds when the hunting season is closed.

Live birds

50 CFR 20.38 and Utah Admin. Rules R657-4, R657-9-20

You may not possess or transport live migratory game birds. You must immediately kill any migratory game bird you wound and include it in your bag limit.

A hunting license does not give you authority to possess live migratory game birds.

Waste of migratory game birds

50 CFR 20.25, Utah Code § 23A-5-314 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-21

You may not waste any migratory game birds or permit them to be wasted or spoiled. (Waste means to abandon migratory game birds or to allow them to spoil or be used in a manner not normally associated with their beneficial use. For example, using the meat as fertilizer or for trapping bait is not considered a beneficial use.)

In addition, you may not kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to immediately retrieve it. Any migratory game bird that you wound must be immediately killed and included in your bag limit.

Termination of possession

50 CFR 20.39 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-22

Birds that you have taken are no longer in your possession once you've delivered the birds to another person as a gift, or once you've taken the birds to a migratory bird preservation facility (i.e., a facility where birds are taken to be cleaned and prepared for consumption) or to a post office or common carrier and consigned them for transport to a person other than yourself.

Tagging requirement

50 CFR 20.36 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-23

If you leave your birds in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transporting or storing, including temporary storage, or at a location to have taxidermy services performed, you must tag the birds. You must sign the tag, and it must include your address and Utah hunting license number, the total number and species of birds taken and the date the birds were killed.

If you're transporting migratory game birds that you've taken, the birds are not considered to be in storage or temporary storage, and you don't need to have a tag on them at that time.

Reminder: There are specific rules for tagging sandhill cranes and tundra swans. For details, see page 18.

Giving birds to someone else

50 CFR 20.40, Utah Code § 23A-1-205 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-24

You can give the migratory game birds you've taken to another person, but please remember the following:

- If you give birds to someone at any location, you must tag the birds. The tag must include your address and Utah hunting license number, the total number and species of birds you're donating, the date the birds were killed and the date the birds were donated. You must also sign the tag.
- If you accept birds from another hunter, those birds become part of your possession limit. For example, if you have 15 ducks at home in your freezer, and you accept 6 ducks from another hunter, you now have 21 ducks in your possession. That's the maximum number of ducks you can have in your possession in Utah. You'll have to eat some of those ducks before you can go hunting and take more.

Custody of another person's birds

50 CFR 20.37 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-25

You may not receive or have in your custody migratory game birds that belong to another person unless the birds have been tagged in the manner described in the previous section *Termination of possession*.

Species identification requirement

50 CFR 20.43 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-26

You may not transport migratory game birds within the United States unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each bird while you're transporting them to your home or to a migratory bird preservation facility (i.e., a facility where birds are taken to be cleaned and prepared for consumption).

Shipping harvested migratory game birds

50 CFR 20.44, and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-27

You may not ship migratory game birds unless you possess a shipping permit. Shipping permits are available from the Division offices listed on page 2.

You may not transport migratory game birds, by the U.S. Postal Service or a common carrier, unless all of the following items are clearly marked on the outside of the package or container:

- Your name and address
- The name and address of the recipient
- The number and species of the birds contained in the package

Migratory bird preservation facilities

50 CFR 20.82 and 20.83 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-28

No migratory bird preservation facility (see definition on page 67) shall receive or have in custody any migratory game bird unless accurate records are maintained that can identify who each bird was received from and can show all of the following information:

- The number of each species
- The location where they were taken
- The date the birds were received
- The name and address of the person from whom the birds were received
- The date the birds were disposed of
- The name and address of the person to whom the birds were delivered

In addition, migratory bird preservation facilities may not destroy any records they are required to maintain under this section for a period of one year following the last entry on record.

Record keeping as required by this section is not necessary at hunting clubs that do not fully process migratory birds by removing their head and wings.

No migratory bird preservation facility may prevent any person authorized to enforce this part from entering their facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where bird-processing operations are being carried out.

Processing and taxidermy of protected wildlife

Utah Code § 23A-4-709 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-5-23

A butcher or owner/employee of a locker or storage plant may not receive the carcass of protected wildlife unless the animal is properly tagged or there is a valid donation slip. Taxidermists must keep records of all received protected wildlife parts—including the date of receipt and documentation of the associated hunting license or permit—for at least three years.

Importing harvested migratory game birds

50 CFR 20.61–20.66 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-29

For the complete list of rules governing the importation of migratory game birds harvested in another state or country, see the *Code of Federal Regulations* 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-29 at wildlife.utah.gov/rules.

Here are some of the primary rules that apply:

- One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the point of entry and your home or to a migratory bird preservation facility (i.e., a facility where birds are taken to be cleaned and prepared for the table).
- You may not import migratory game birds harvested in any foreign country, except Canada, unless the birds are dressed (except as required by Canadian regulations), drawn and the head and feet are removed.
- You may not import migratory game birds that belong to another person.

- Federal bag and possession limits apply, regardless of the number of states or provinces you may have hunted in during your trip. For example, if you hunt doves in two states, the total number of doves you take cannot exceed a single federal bag or possession limit. (For example, if the federal bag limit is 15 doves, and you take eight doves in the first state and then travel to another state and hunt the same day, you can take only seven doves in the second state.)

Bag limits

50 CFR 20.11 and 20.24 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-31

Federal bag and possession limits apply to migratory game bird hunting, regardless of the number of states or provinces you may have hunted in during your trip. For example, if you hunt ducks in two states, the total number of ducks you take in one day cannot exceed a single federal bag and possession limit. (For example, if the federal bag limit is 7 ducks, and you take 5 ducks in one state and then travel to another state and hunt the same day, you can take only 2 ducks in the second state.)

Checkpoints and officer contacts

Utah Code §§ 23A-5-207 and 77-23-104

To help the Division fulfill its responsibility as trustee and custodian of Utah's wildlife, conservation officers and biologists monitor the taking and possession of protected wildlife, and the required permits, firearms and equipment used for hunting. You should expect to encounter conservation officers and biologists checking hunters in the marsh and at checkpoints.

If you're contacted by a conservation officer, you must provide the officer with the items they request, including any licenses and permits required for hunting, any devices used to participate in hunting and any birds you've taken. These contacts allow the Division to collect valuable information about Utah's waterfowl populations.

Special regulations for national wildlife refuges

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-30

More than 500 refuges across the nation and the U.S. territories are included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. Three of those refuges—Bear River, Fish Springs and Ouray—are located in Utah, and the following regulations apply to all.

- Current state and federal regulations apply for season dates, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits.
- Hunters may possess and use only approved nontoxic shot while in the field.
- Hunters may not enter closed areas to retrieve birds. Therefore, allow enough room between the closed area boundary and where you're hunting to retrieve your birds.
- Camping is not permitted on the refuges.
- Prohibited activities include wood cutting and gathering, littering, disturbing or removing plants or natural objects, and removing artifacts of antiquity. Shell casings and ammunition boxes are litter. Failure to make a reasonable effort to retrieve litter could result in a citation.

Maps of all three refuges are available online at wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl.

The following is specific information and regulations for each of the federal refuges in Utah:

Bear River

50 CFR 32.64

- The refuge will be open for the youth waterfowl hunt on Sept. 20, 2025.
- A map of the refuge is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl.
- Hunters may not shoot or hunt within 100 yards of refuge roads open to vehicle traffic.
- Hunters may not enter the hunting units (scout) prior to the opening day.

- Hunters may not use pits or permanent blinds. The building of a temporary blind made of natural material is permitted, but is not allowed prior to the opening day.
- Airboats are only permitted in the posted open areas of units 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and the C blocks.
- Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on the refuge.
- Hunters may enter the refuge two hours before legal sunrise and must exit the refuge by two hours after legal sunset.
- The refuge prohibits leaving decoys, boats, vehicles and other personal property on the refuge overnight.
- Hunters may only park in designated parking areas.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on the refuge must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Firearms may only be discharged according to refuge regulations (*50 CFR 27.42* and *50 CFR 32.64*).
- Archery hunting is not allowed on the refuge.
- Predator and snipe hunting are not allowed on the refuge.
- Commercial guiding and outfitter activities are not allowed on the refuge.
- All hunters entering, using or occupying the refuge for waterfowl hunting must abide by all terms and conditions listed on the refuge website.

Reminder: You can check in your swan for identification at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge office on **Friday and Saturday only (9 a.m.–noon and 2–7 p.m.)** during the 2025 hunting season.

For more information call the refuge manager at 435-723-5887 or visit bit.ly/fws_brnbr.

Fish Springs

50 CFR 32.64

- The refuge will be open for the youth waterfowl hunt on Sept. 27, 2025.
- A map of the refuge is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl.
- The hunting program has expanded at Fish Springs NWR to include more species of migratory birds and new areas for upland and big game. For more information, visit the website at bit.ly/fws_fsnwr.
- Hunters may construct nonpermanent blinds, but must remove all blinds constructed out of materials other than vegetation at the end of the hunting day.
- The refuge provides a Special Blind Area for use by hunters who are disabled. The refuge prohibits trespass for any reason by any individual not registered to utilize the area.
- The refuge allows the use of small boats, 15 feet or less, but does not allow gasoline motors and air boats.
- Hunters may enter the refuge two hours before sunrise, and must exit the refuge by 1½ hours after sunset. Hunters may not leave decoys, boats, vehicles and other personal property on the refuge overnight.

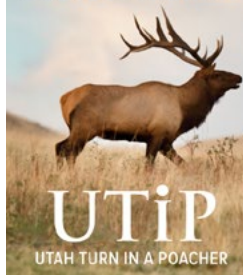
All hunters entering, using or occupying the refuge for waterfowl hunting must abide by all terms and conditions listed on the refuge website. For more information, call the refuge manager at 435-723-5887 or visit bit.ly/fws_fsnwr.

Ouray

50 CFR 32.64

- The refuge will be open for the youth waterfowl hunt on Sept. 20, 2025.
- A map of the refuge is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl.
- Leota Bottom is the only refuge area open to duck, goose and coot hunting. Access into Leota Bottom is limited to foot, bike, canoe, rowboat or electric motorized boats. Gas-powered boats are not permitted.

Protect wildlife by reporting suspected wildlife crimes



**CALL
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APP**

**800-662-3337
847411
UTDWR**



Learn more or **report online**
at wildlife.utah.gov/utip



Avian diseases in Utah

Avian cholera, avian botulism and harmful algal blooms are diseases that primarily affect wild bird populations. Low pathogenic avian influenza is also common in migratory game birds, and usually does not cause symptoms in wild birds.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses have been uncommon in the past in Utah waterfowl, but there have been more widespread, multi-county outbreaks in recent years. To date, strains infectious to humans are extremely rare.

Please report dead birds: If you find a group of five or more dead waterfowl or shorebirds—or any individual dead scavengers or raptors—please report the birds and their exact location to the nearest DWR office. Absolutely do not touch the birds or pick them up.

By taking some simple precautions, you can greatly reduce your risk of contracting any wildlife disease:

- Do not harvest any bird that appears sick, and do not pick up diseased birds or dead birds that you didn't shoot.
- Do not handle or eat sick birds.
- Do not allow dogs or other pets to handle or eat sick or dead birds.
- Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning your birds.
- After cleaning the birds, wash your hands with soap and water, and thoroughly clean and disinfect all knives, equipment, boots and surfaces that may have touched the birds with a 10-percent bleach solution.
- All birds should be cooked thoroughly (internal temperature should reach 165° F).
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling your birds.

Please visit wildlife.utah.gov/diseases for more information about avian diseases.

- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on the refuge must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Firearms may only be discharged according to refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and 50 CFR 32.64). Snipe and tundra swan hunting are not allowed on the refuge.
- The use of pits and permanent blinds is not allowed. The building of a temporary blind

made of natural material is permitted, but is not allowed prior to opening day.

- All hunters entering, using or occupying the refuge for waterfowl hunting must abide by all terms and conditions listed on the refuge website.
- For more information call the refuge manager at 435-545-2522 or visit bit.ly/fws_onwr.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA RULES

Utah Admin. Rule R657-6-7 and R657-6-9

Certain state wildlife and waterfowl management areas and national wildlife refuges are intensively managed for upland game and waterfowl production. As such, each area has restrictions on the use of firearms, crossbows, archery tackle and ammunition. Please use the table below to help you understand the restrictions at each area you plan to hunt.

Wildlife Management Area or National Wildlife Refuge	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open hunting seasons.*	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open waterfowl hunting seasons.	May hunt upland game, only with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and only during waterfowl hunting seasons.
Bear River National Wildlife Refuge #			X
Bear River Trenton Property Parcel	X		
Bicknell Bottoms †		X	X
Blue Lake		X	X
Browns Park †	X		X
Bud Phelps	X		
Clear Lake ‡	X		X
Desert Lake †	X		X
Farmington Bay		X	X
Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge †§	X		
Harold S. Crane		X	X
Howard Slough		X	X
Huntington	X		
James Walter Fitzgerald	X		
Kevin Conway	X		

* Specified hunting seasons are authorized by the Utah Wildlife Board. You can find information about the hunting seasons in Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks. These guidebooks are available from license agents and Division offices and at wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

† May hunt mourning dove with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and during the season dates listed on page 41.

‡ May hunt mourning dove with a shotgun using nontoxic shot from Sept. 1–14, 2025.

§ Weapons are restricted to only shotguns and archery tackle on the Willard Bay WMA and at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. For details about upland game hunting at Fish Springs, visit bit.ly/fws_fsnwr.

*National wildlife refuges have many unique regulations. Please visit their websites and know the regulations before you hunt.

Wildlife Management Area or National Wildlife Refuge	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open hunting seasons.*	May discharge a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle only during open waterfowl hunting seasons.	May hunt upland game, only with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and only during waterfowl hunting seasons.
Locomotive Springs	X		X
Manti Meadows	X		X
Mills Meadows		X	X
Montes Creek	X		
Nephi	X		
Ogden Bay		X	X
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge #			X
Pahvant	X		
Powell Slough		X	X
Public Shooting Grounds		X	X
Redmond Marsh †	X		
Richfield	X		
Salt Creek		X	X
Scott and Norma Matheson Wetland Preserve	X		X
Stewart Lake †	X		X
Timpie Springs		X	X
Utah Lake Wetland Preserve †			X
Vernal Game Farm	X		
Willard Bay §	X		

* Specified hunting seasons are authorized by the Utah Wildlife Board. You can find information about the hunting seasons in Utah's hunting and fishing guidebooks. These guidebooks are available from license agents and Division offices and at wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks.

† May hunt mourning dove with a shotgun using nontoxic shot and during the season dates listed on page 41.

§ Weapons are restricted to only shotguns and archery tackle on the Willard Bay WMA and at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge. For details about upland game hunting at Fish Springs, visit bit.ly/fwfs_fsnwr.

* National wildlife refuges have many unique regulations. Please visit their websites and know the regulations before you hunt.

SEASON DATES, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS, AND HUNTING AREAS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-31

New this year: Beginning in 2025, migratory game birds formerly covered in the *Utah Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook*—American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, sandhill crane and white-winged dove—are now regulated under *Utah Admin. Rule R657-9* and are included in this guidebook. The Utah Wildlife Board approved this change with the intent to provide more clarity and consistency for hunters regarding federal and state requirements, which are similar for various types of migratory game birds.

Ducks, mergansers, coots and scaup

Northern zone season dates

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Sept. 20, 2025
- **Ducks, mergansers and coots:** Oct. 4, 2025–Jan. 17, 2026
- **Scaup:** Oct. 4–Dec. 28, 2025

Southern zone season dates

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Sept. 27, 2025
- **Ducks, mergansers and coots:** Oct. 11, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026
- **Scaup:** Oct. 31, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026

Bag and possession limits: ducks, mergansers and scaup

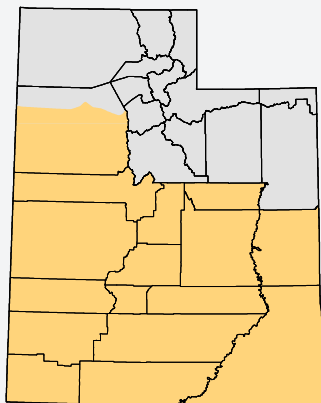
- 7 bird daily limit, **except no more than:**
 - › 2 canvasbacks
 - › 2 female mallards
 - › **3 pintail**
 - › 2 redheads
 - › 2 wood ducks
 - › 2 scaup
- Possession limit is three times the daily bag limit

Bag and possession limits: coots

- 25 daily limit
- 75 in possession

Duck zone

For maps and boundary descriptions visit hunt.utah.gov.



■ Northern zone ■ Southern zone

Geese

Dark geese (cackling, Canada and brant)

Eastern Box Elder goose season dates

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4, 2025–Jan. 17, 2026

Northern goose area season dates

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4–11, 2025
- Oct. 27, 2025–Jan. 31, 2026

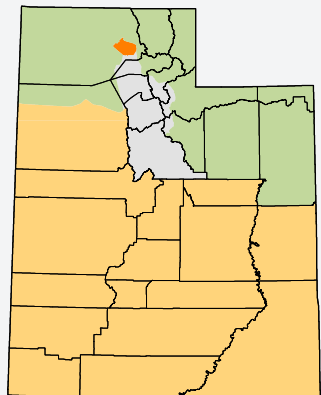
Southern goose area season dates

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Sept. 27, 2025
- Oct. 11, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Goose areas

For maps and boundary descriptions of the four goose areas, visit hunt.utah.gov.



- Eastern Box Elder
- Northern
- Wasatch
- Southern

Wasatch Front goose area season dates

- Youth Waterfowl Hunt: Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4–11, 2025
- Nov. 10, 2025–Feb. 15, 2026

Bag and possession limits

- Daily limit: 5
- Possession limit: 15

White-fronted geese

Eastern Box Elder goose area season dates

- Youth Waterfowl Hunt: Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4, 2025–Jan. 17, 2026

Northern goose area season dates

- Youth Waterfowl Hunt: Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4–11, 2025
- Oct. 27, 2025–Jan. 31, 2026

Southern goose area season dates

- Youth Waterfowl Hunt: Sept. 27, 2025
- Oct. 11, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026

Wasatch Front goose area season dates

- Youth Waterfowl Hunt: Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4–11, 2025
- Nov. 10, 2025–Feb. 15, 2026

Bag and possession limits

- Daily limit: 10
- Possession limit: 30

Light geese (snow, blue and Ross's)

Eastern Box Elder, Northern and Wasatch Front goose area season dates

- Oct. 15–Dec. 22, 2025
- Feb. 2–March 10, 2026

Southern goose area season dates

- Oct. 25–Dec. 15, 2025
- Jan. 15–March 10, 2026

Closures: The Bear River, Fish Springs and Ouray national wildlife refuges and the Brown's Park, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Ogden Bay, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek waterfowl management areas (WMAs) will be closed to light goose hunting for the season, starting on the last day of the dark goose hunt within their respective goose areas. Maps of Utah's WMAs and national wildlife refuges are available at wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl. Millard County is closed to light goose hunting Feb. 15–28, 2026.

Bag and possession limits

- Bag limit: 20
- Possession limit: 60

Rails

No open season.

Snipe

Northern zone season dates

- Oct. 4, 2025–Jan. 17, 2026

Southern zone season dates

- Oct. 11, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026

Bag and possession limits

- Daily limit: 8
- Possession limit: 24

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Falconry: waterfowl hunting

Ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, scaup and snipes

Season dates: All season dates that apply to traditional waterfowl hunters also apply to falconers. (See page 28 or the season dates listed page 38.)

- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Falconers must be 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2025.

Bag and possession limits for ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, scaup and snipes

- 3 birds daily
- Possession is 9 birds (singly or in combination)

Tundra swan

Application dates: July 2–16, 2025. Use hunt number **TS1000** to apply.

Mandatory online course: You must complete a mandatory swan orientation course each year prior to submitting an application. See page 13 or wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl for details.

Permit requirement: You must have a valid tundra swan permit to hunt swans, regardless of your age. The holder of a tundra swan permit may take and possess only one tundra swan during the 2025 season.

Season dates

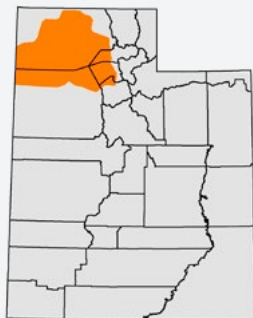
- **Youth Waterfowl Hunt:** Sept. 20, 2025
- Oct. 4–Dec. 14, 2025

Immediate season closure: If the Division's monitoring program indicates that 20 trumpeter swans have been taken (meeting the federally set quota to close the hunt), the season will be closed immediately and the Division will notify all permit holders.

Areas open: Boundary maps are available online at hunt.utah.gov.

Tundra swan zone

For maps and boundary descriptions visit hunt.utah.gov.



■ Tundra swan area ■ No hunting

Important: Intentionally or accidentally harvested trumpeter swans will be seized by law enforcement, and criminal penalties may apply. Hunters who harvest a trumpeter swan have a waiting period before they can apply for another tundra swan permit, which is three years for youth and five years for an adult. See page 36 for information about identifying swans.

Note: To apply for a preference point, use the code **SWN** in your online application.

Falconry: Falconry season dates, possession limits and permit requirements are the same as those for other hunters. See page 28 for details.

American crow

Season dates: Sept. 1–30, 2025 and Dec. 1, 2025–Feb. 28, 2026

Areas open: Statewide*

- All national wildlife refuges in Utah are closed to crow hunting.

Bag and possession limits

- Daily limit: 10
- Possession limit: 30

Notes: For tips that will help you identify crows—and avoid shooting blackbirds and ravens—see page 66.

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

Pigeon

Band-tailed pigeon

Season dates: Sept. 1–14, 2025

Falconry season dates: Sept. 1–Dec. 16, 2025

Areas open: Statewide*

Bag and possession limits

- Daily limit 2
- Possession limit 6

Falconry bag and possession limits

- Daily limit 2
- Possession limit 6

Permit requirement: A free permit is required to participate in this hunt.

Dove

Mourning dove and white-winged dove

Season dates: Sept. 1–Oct. 30, 2025

Falconry season dates: Sept. 1–Dec. 16, 2025

Areas open: Statewide*

Bag and possession limits

- Daily limit 15
- Possession limit 45

Falconry bag and possession limits

- Daily limit 3
- Possession limit 9

Notes: Limits singly or in combination. Collared-doves should remain fully feathered so they can be distinguished from mourning and white-winged doves. See the species ID section of this guidebook for information about collared-doves.

Sandhill crane

Application dates: July 2–16, 2025. Use code **SC1001** for Cache County, code **SC1002** for Rich County, or for the Uintah Basin Zone, codes **SC1006** (early), **SC1007** (middle), or **SC1008** (late). * See hunt.utah.gov for boundary maps.

Season dates:

- **Cache and Rich counties:** Sept. 6–15, 2025
- **East Box Elder County:** Sept. 6–Nov. 4, 2025
- **Uintah Basin Zone:** Sept. 27–Oct. 16, Oct. 17–Nov. 5 and Nov. 6–25, 2025

Areas open: Cache County (**SC1001**), Rich County (**SC1002**), and the Uintah Basin Zone (Uintah and Duchesne counties, and **Ouray National Wildlife Refuge**), for which there are three hunts: early (**SC1006**), middle (**SC1007**) and late (**SC1008**). * Boundary maps are available online at hunt.utah.gov.

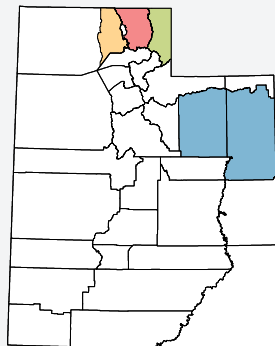
Permit requirement: A sandhill crane permit is required to participate in this hunt. During the season, you may take only one bird of either sex.

Notes: To apply for a preference point, use the code **CRA** in your online application.

Falconry: Falconry season dates, possession limits and permit requirements are the same as those for other hunters.

Closures: Harold Crane, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek WMAs are closed to sandhill crane hunting, **except during open waterfowl hunting seasons**. Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge is closed to sandhill crane hunting.

Sandhill crane (Found statewide)



- | | |
|--|--|
| Cache | Rich |
| East Box Elder | Uintah Basin |

*Excludes closed areas and Native American trust lands • Red indicates areas of special note or significant changes.

UTAH'S YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-31

This year, Utah will again hold two Youth Waterfowl Hunts. The first one will be on Sept. 20, 2025 in the state's Northern Zone, and the second one will be on Sept. 27, 2025 in the state's Southern Zone.

Reminder: Youth who have drawn tundra swan permits in the hunt drawing may hunt for swans during the youth hunt in the Northern Zone. Youth who have not drawn tundra swan permits may **not** hunt swans.

Age requirements

Anyone who is 17 years old or younger on July 31, 2025 may participate in the hunts. You must also have a Utah hunting, combination or three-day nonresident small-game license, and a HIP registration number. If you are 16 years old or older, you must have a current federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp, also called a duck stamp. For details on meeting these requirements, see page 12.

Falconers may not participate in this hunt unless they meet the age requirements.

Adults must accompany youth hunters. Please see page 10 of this guide for more information about the requirements adults must meet to accompany a youth in the field.

Shooting hours and bag limits

The shooting hours for the Youth Waterfowl Hunt are from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset. This means that on Sept. 20, youth in the Northern Zone can hunt from 6:44 a.m. until 7:27 p.m. On Sept. 27, youth in the Southern Zone can hunt from 6:51 a.m. until 7:16 p.m. (Official source: gml.noaa.gov/grad/solcalc position Salt Lake City.)

Important: If you plan to hunt Utah's national wildlife refuges during the Youth Waterfowl Hunts, keep in mind that Bear River and Ouray are in the Northern Zone (Sept. 20) and Fish Springs is in the Southern Zone (Sept. 27). For details, see pages 33-34.

New: The bag limit for pintail has increased from 1 bird to 3 birds, and white-fronted geese has increased from 6 birds to 10 birds.

The bag limits for the Youth Waterfowl Hunt are as follows:

- Ducks, mergansers and scaup: 7 birds (except no more than 2 canvasbacks, no more than 2 hen mallards, no more than 3 pintail, no more than 2 redheads, no more than 2 wood ducks and no more than 2 scaup).
- Coots: 25 birds
- Dark geese (cackling, Canada and brant): 5 birds
- White-fronted geese: 10 birds
- Tundra swan: 1 bird (**tundra swan permit required**, see hunt.utah.gov for the swan hunt boundary)

Closed for youth hunt

Youth may not hunt the following species during the youth hunt:

- Any light geese (snow, blue and Ross's)
- Snipe
- Sandhill crane
- Crows, pigeons and doves

Waterfowl consumption advisory

Because of potential elevated levels of metals and chemicals that may be present in waterfowl, hunters should check current recommendations at WaterfowlAdvisories.utah.gov.

ID THAT SWAN BEFORE YOU SHOOT IT

Utah's tundra swan hunt closed early several years in a row because too many trumpeter swans were killed.

Only nine states offer swan hunting, and Utah is one of them. Unfortunately, the swan hunt had to close early—**four years in a row**—because hunters killed 20 trumpeter swans each season. That is the federally set limit of trumpeter swan take legally allowed each year.

As a result of these closures and the loss of hunting season opportunity for tundra swan hunters, in 2023 the Utah Wildlife Board approved a rule making trumpeter swan take illegal.

To prevent the loss of future swan hunting opportunities, hunters need to be particularly careful to identify swan species before shooting.

Special rules to protect trumpeter swans

Back in 2001, the State of Utah entered into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That goal of that agreement was to help protect trumpeter swans, whose populations had dwindled after years of overhunting and habitat loss.

The agreement required the state to closely monitor trumpeter swan take and prevent too many birds from being killed. In return, Utah could continue to allow hunting for tundra swans.

At that time, the trumpeter swan quota was 10 birds. (It changed to 20 birds in 2019.) The state agreed to close the season immediately if hunters hit that federal limit.

Important: Taking a trumpeter swan is illegal, and criminal penalties may apply. Upon mandatory inspection, law enforcement may seize any taken trumpeter swan.

Hunters who take a trumpeter swan also incur a waiting period to apply for a tundra swan hunting permit. The timeline is as follows:

- Three years for youth
- Five years for an adult

A mandatory orientation course

Important: The Division requires anyone applying for a tundra swan permit to complete a mandatory, in-depth orientation course **each year** they apply. The course is available online at wildlife.utah.gov/SwanCourse and takes about 30 minutes to complete. For details, see page 13.

The course outlines common swan hunting issues and explains the physical differences between tundra and trumpeter swans. For swan illustrations and identifying characteristics, see page 62.

The course also covers the rules and regulations related to tundra swan hunting. You can find those rules on pages 18-19.

Tundra swan permits and harvest reporting

If you obtain a tundra swan permit, there are strict regulations in place and a mandatory reporting requirement. You must submit a complete report, even if you do not hunt or harvest a swan. For details, see page 19.

If you do harvest a tundra swan, you must tag it. Any tundra or trumpeter swan must be examined by a Division employee (see DWR office locations and hours on page 2) or Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge representative (Friday and Saturday only, 9 a.m.–noon and 2–7 p.m.) within 72 hours of harvest.

Reminder: Law enforcement may seize any taken trumpeter swan.

Waterfowl Slam program

This year, the Division will continue the Waterfowl Slam program in partnership with multiple conservation organizations. Hunters who join the program can earn different sizes and colors of bands for harvesting drakes of various species.

Funds raised through the Waterfowl Slam program go toward wetland enhancement,

migratory bird research, and conservation and habitat improvement projects.

We have many exciting ideas for future efforts. Please consider participating in Utah's Waterfowl Slam Program in 2025 so we can make these projects happen! To learn more about the slam, visit wildlife.utah.gov/waterfowl-slam.



A remarkable opportunity

Having the opportunity to hunt tundra swans is truly remarkable. Please help prevent an early closure and don't jeopardize the number of permits the state can issue each year.

By making an effort to identify the species, obey swan-hunting laws and focus on tundra swan harvest, you can play an important role in maintaining future tundra swan hunting opportunities in Utah.

Did you harvest a banded bird?

If you harvested a banded bird, we encourage you to voluntarily report it at reportband.gov.

When you submit a report, you will receive information about when and where the bird was originally banded. Likewise, the person who banded the bird will be notified about the harvest and where it occurred.

By participating in this program, you're helping researchers understand more about waterfowl populations and their migration patterns.

Visit j.mp/waterfowl_bands to see detailed information about all waterfowl banded in Utah since 1912.

Protect waterbodies and wildlife



To prevent the destructive spread of quagga mussels, there are steps users of all watercraft must follow **before and after recreating in Utah waters.**

MY WATERCRAFT IS MOTORIZED

YES

BOATS, JET SKIS, ETC.

PADDLEBOARDS, TUBES, KAYAKS, ETC.

NO

1

Take the free **MUSSEL-AWARE BOATER COURSE**

1

2

Enroll in the **AIS VESSEL PROGRAM**

3

Read the details at **STDofTHESEA.UTAH.GOV**

2

4

Find an inspection station and **CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.**

3



Learn more and see resources at
STDofTHESEA.UTAH.GOV



Ways to report poachers

Utah Admin. Rule R657-51

If you witness an in-progress wildlife violation—or you know of a previously committed wildlife crime—you have several ways to contact our conservation officers. You can report violations anonymously, if preferred.

Visit wildlife.utah.gov/utip to learn more about your contact options, which are listed here in order of urgency:

1. Text a conservation officer at 847411
2. Call our hotline at 800-662-3337
3. Send a tip using the UTDWR law enforcement app
4. Submit a report at wildlife.utah.gov/utip

When you visit wildlife.utah.gov/utip, you can access the mobile download links for the UTDWR app and see which regional office code you should include in a text to officers. (The codes ensure that texts get to the regions and officers who are in the best position to respond.)

We encourage you to report any poaching activities immediately. Thank you for helping to protect Utah's wildlife.

SHOOTING HOURS

Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-11

Shooting hours for all waterfowl, snipe and coots begin 30 minutes before official sunrise.

Shooting hours end at official sunset.

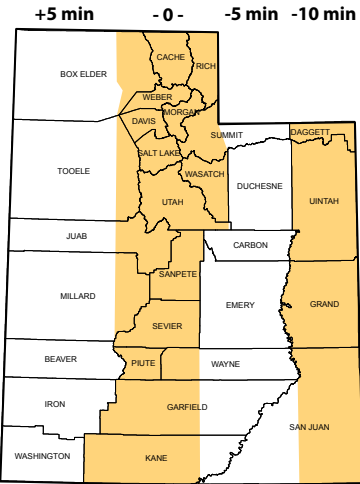
Important: These rules apply statewide, even on opening day. Please remember that there is not a later start time for Utah's urban counties on the day of the waterfowl opener.

Official sunrise and sunset times are different, depending on the day and your location. Please consult the time zone map on this page to learn the differences.

Remember: Subtract 30 minutes from the time of official sunrise to determine when you can start shooting.

You must also follow one other shooting-hour rule: You may not take wildlife or discharge any firearm, crossbow or archery tackle on state-owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, on Division-controlled waterfowl management areas or on federal refuges between official sunset and 30 minutes before official sunrise.

Time zone map



October 2025 November 2025

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

	December 2025		January 2026		February 2026		March 2026	
DATE	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.	Sunrise A.M.	Sunset P.M.
1	7:33	5:01	7:52	5:11	7:37	5:45	7:01	6:19
2	7:34	5:00	7:52	5:12	7:36	5:47	7:00	6:20
3	7:35	5:00	7:52	5:13	7:35	5:48	6:58	6:21
4	7:36	5:00	7:52	5:14	7:34	5:49	6:57	6:22
5	7:37	5:00	7:52	5:14	7:33	5:50	6:55	6:23
6	7:38	5:00	7:52	5:15	7:32	5:52	6:53	6:25
7	7:39	5:00	7:52	5:16	7:31	5:53	6:52	6:26
8	7:39	5:00	7:52	5:17	7:30	5:54	7:50	7:27
9	7:40	5:00	7:51	5:18	7:29	5:55	7:49	7:28
10	7:41	5:00	7:51	5:19	7:28	5:56	7:47	7:29
11	7:42	5:00	7:51	5:21	7:26	5:58	All hunts end March 10	
12	7:43	5:00	7:51	5:22	7:25	5:59		
13	7:43	5:00	7:50	5:23	7:24	6:00		
14	7:44	5:01	7:50	5:24	7:23	6:01		
15	7:45	5:01	7:50	5:25	7:21	6:03		
16	7:46	5:01	7:49	5:26	7:20	6:04		
17	7:46	5:02	7:49	5:27	7:19	6:05		
18	7:47	5:02	7:48	5:28	7:17	6:06		
19	7:47	5:02	7:48	5:30	7:16	6:07		
20	7:48	5:03	7:47	5:31	7:15	6:09		
21	7:48	5:03	7:46	5:32	7:13	6:10		
22	7:49	5:04	7:46	5:33	7:12	6:11		
23	7:49	5:04	7:45	5:34	7:10	6:12		
24	7:50	5:05	7:44	5:35	7:09	6:13		
25	7:50	5:06	7:44	5:37	7:07	6:14		
26	7:51	5:06	7:43	5:38	7:06	6:16		
27	7:51	5:07	7:42	5:39	7:04	6:17		
28	7:51	5:08	7:41	5:40	7:03	6:18		
29	7:51	5:08	7:40	5:42				
30	7:52	5:09	7:39	5:43				
31	7:52	5:10	7:38	5:44				

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Mallard

Length: 24 inches | Weight: 2¾ pounds

Drake has a solid green head and a short tail. Hen is mottled brown.

Eclipse drake



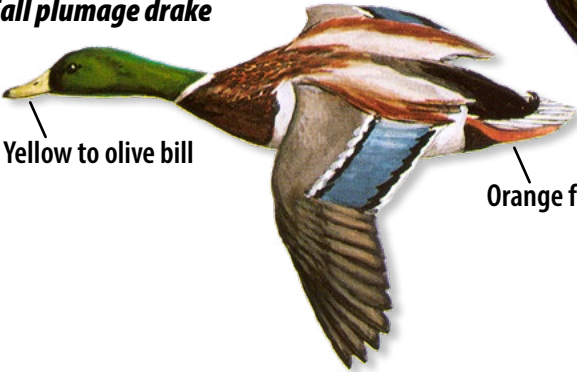
Hen

Orange bill

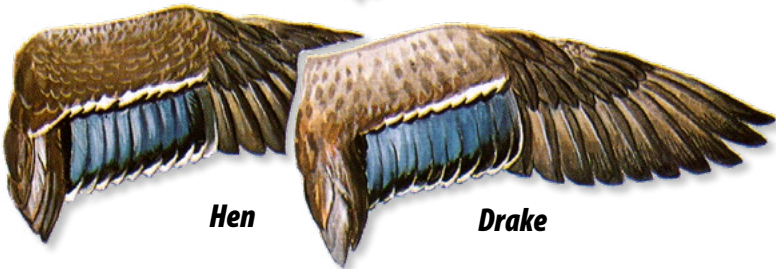


Fall plumage drake

Yellow to olive bill



Orange feet

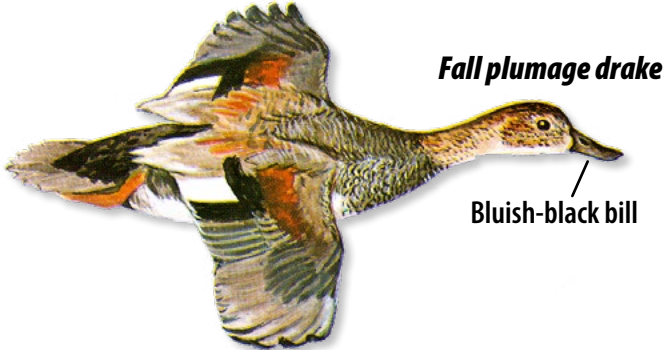
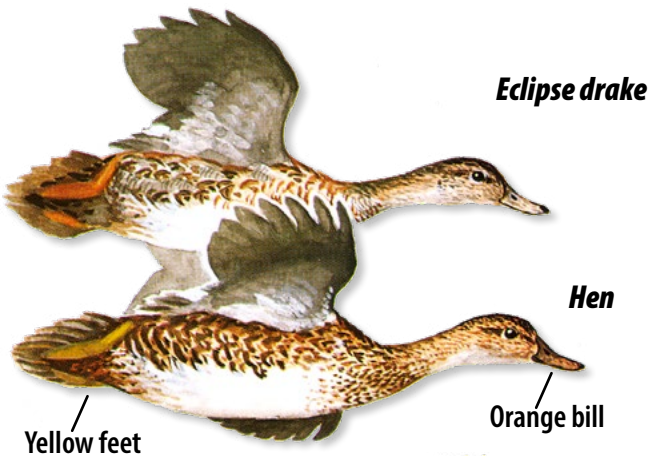


Hen

Drake

Gadwall

Length: 21 inches | Weight: 2 pounds
Often mistaken for a mallard. Quicker and more agile than the mallard.



SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Northern pintail

Length: 26 inches | **Weight:** 1¼ pounds

Distinguished by long, pointed tail.

Eclipse drake



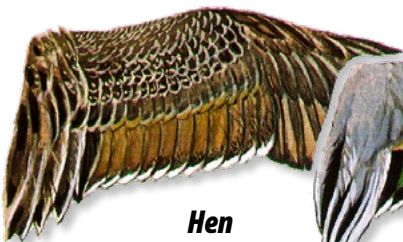
Hen



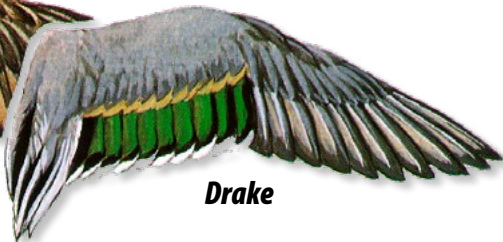
Drake



Hen



Drake



American wigeon

Length: 21 inches | Weight: 1¾ pounds

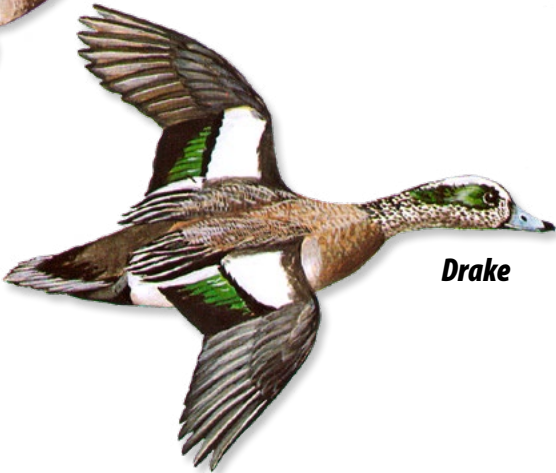
The white belly and forewing are very showy in the air. Drakes have a distinctive whistle.



Eclipse drake



Hen



Drake



Drake

Hen

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Northern shovelers

Length: 19 ½ inches | Weight: 1½ pounds
Often called spoon bill and mistaken for a mallard.



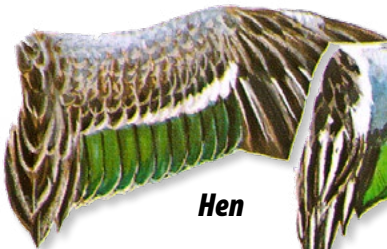
Eclipse drake



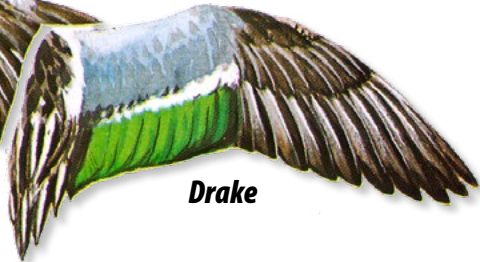
Hen



Drake



Hen

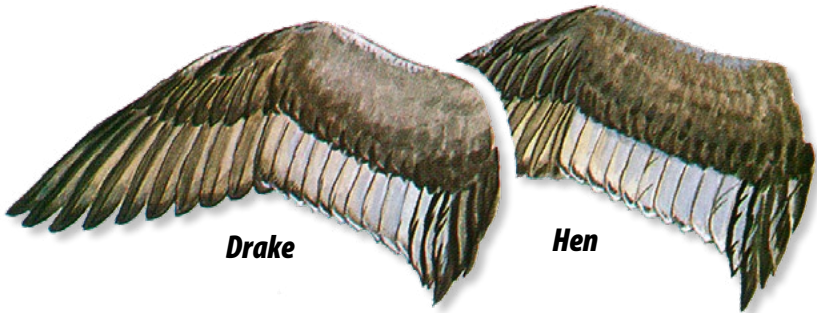
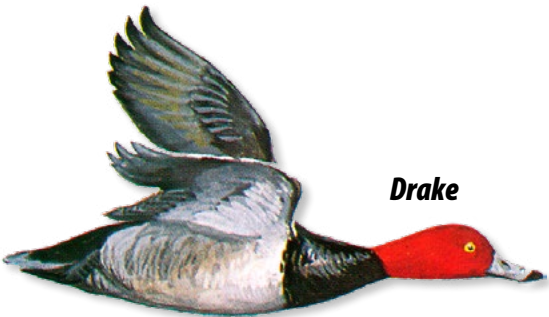
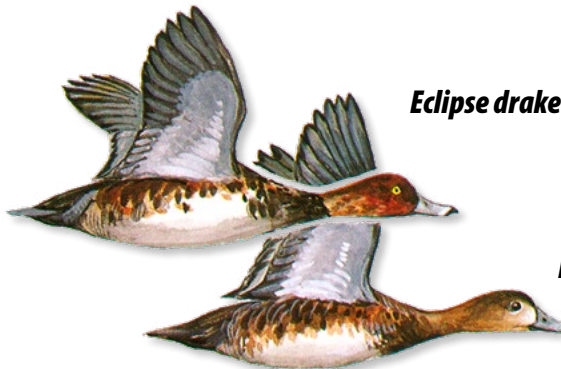


Drake

Redhead

Length: 20 inches | Weight: 2½ pounds

Often confused with the canvasback, the redhead has a grayer back and a more rounded head.

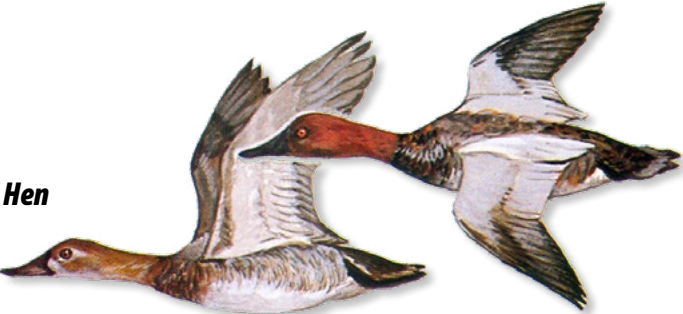


SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Canvasback

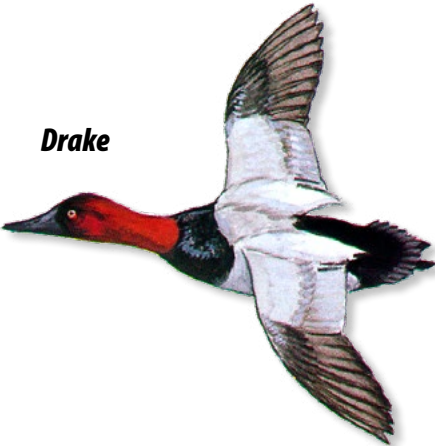
Length: 22 inches | Weight: 3 pounds

One of the largest and fastest ducks. The wedge-shaped bill gives this duck a unique profile. The drake has a whitish back.



Hen

Eclipse drake



Drake



Hen

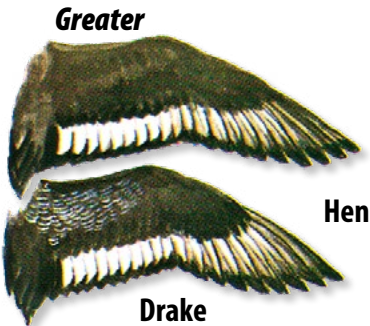
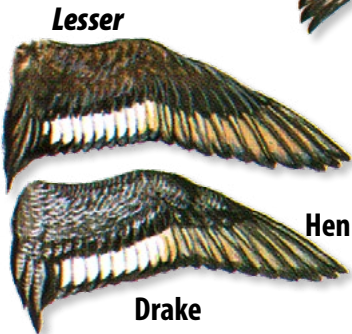
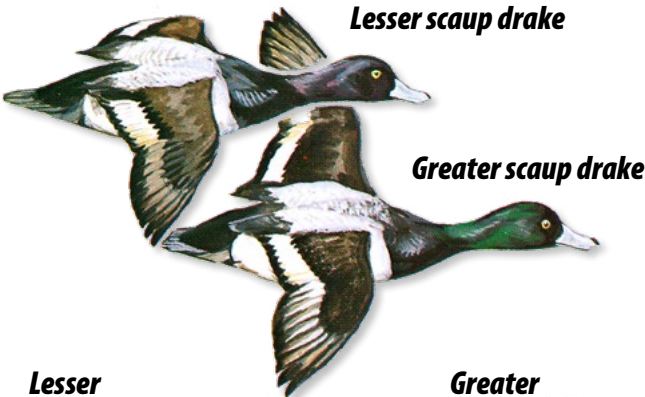
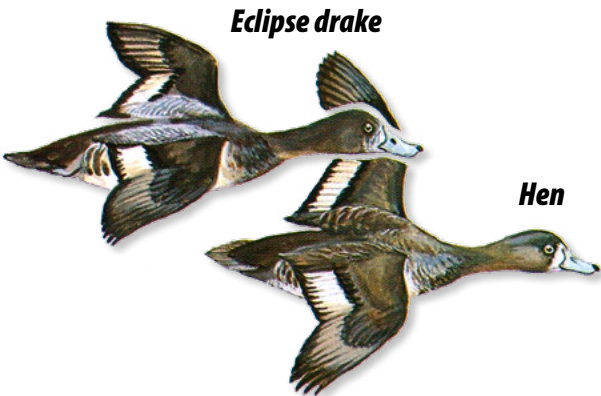


Drake

Scaup

Length: 17 inches | Weight: 17/8 pounds

The scaup has a blue bill and a white band along the back of the wing.

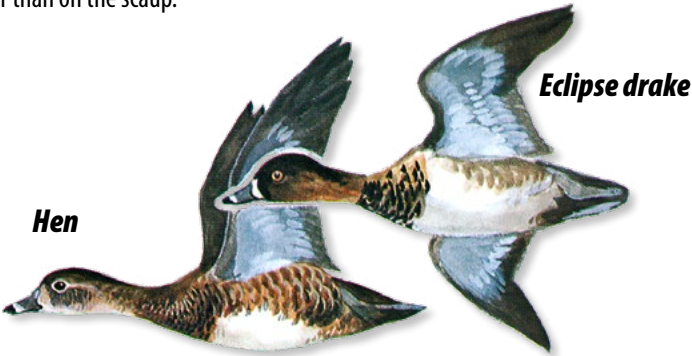


SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Ring-necked duck

Length: 17 inches | Weight: 2½ pounds

Both sexes have a pale, whitish ring around the tip of their bill. In flight, wings and back appear darker than on the scaup.



Blue-winged teal

Length: 16 inches | Weight: 1½ pounds

Drakes have a white crescent behind their bill and both sexes have blue wing coverts.



Eclipse drake

Cinnamon teal

Length: 15 inches | Weight: 1 pound

Drakes are dark red with a yellow eye. Males and females look very similar early in the year.

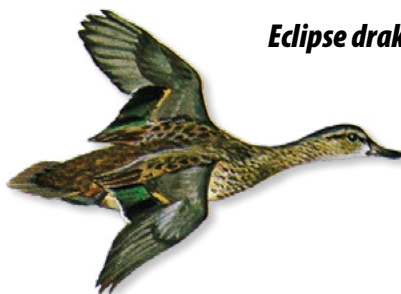


Eclipse drake

Green-winged teal

Length: 14 inches | Weight: 1 pound

The smallest of the teal species. Both sexes have green on their wings.

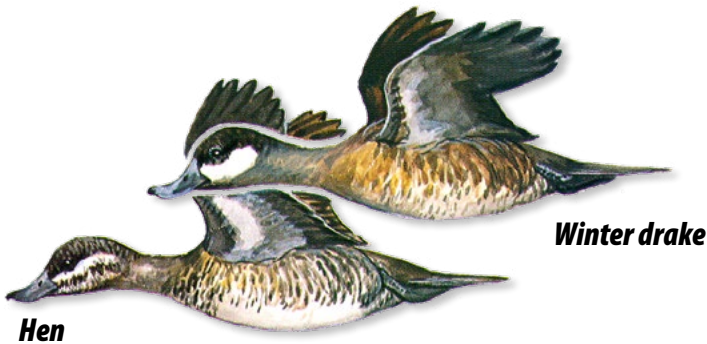


Eclipse drake

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Ruddy duck

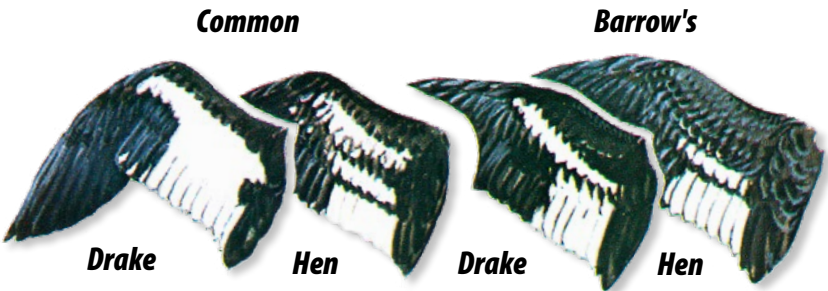
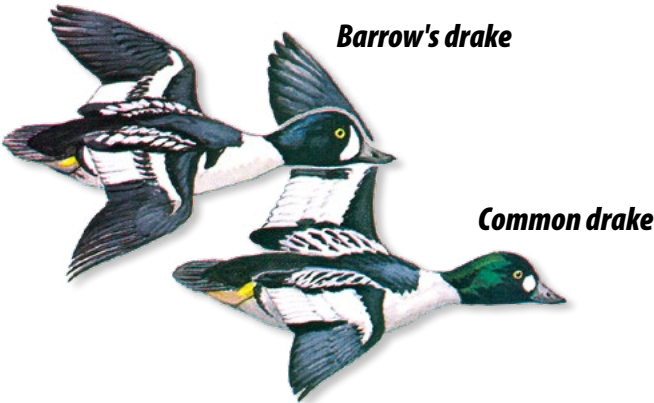
Length: 16 inches | Weight: 1½ pounds
A small diving duck with a broad bill and small wings.



Goldeneye

Length: 20 inches | Weight: 2½ pounds

Drakes have a white spot behind the bill. Immature drakes look similar to hens.



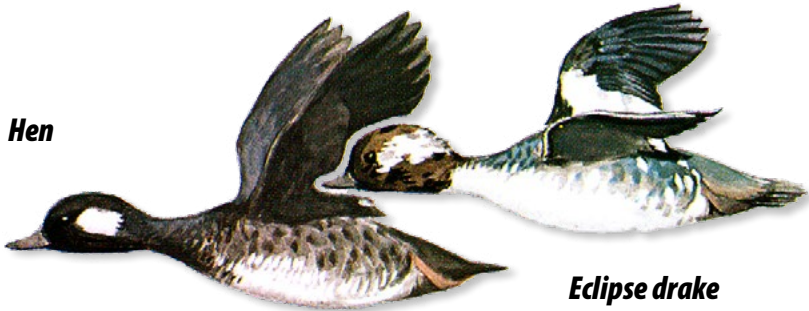
SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Bufflehead

Length: 15 inches | Weight: 1½ pounds

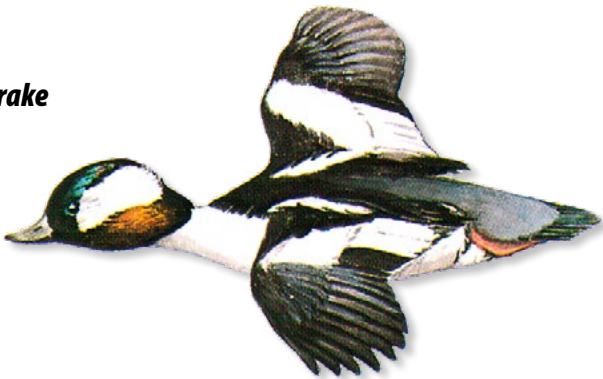
A small duck with white patches on the wings and head.

Hen



Eclipse drake

Drake

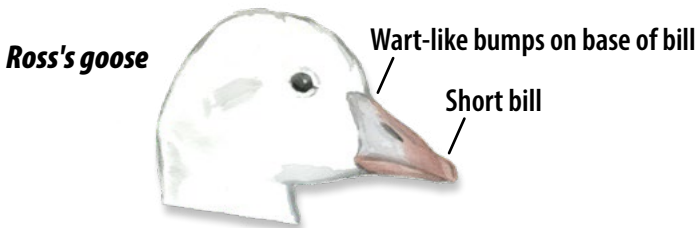


Hen



Drake

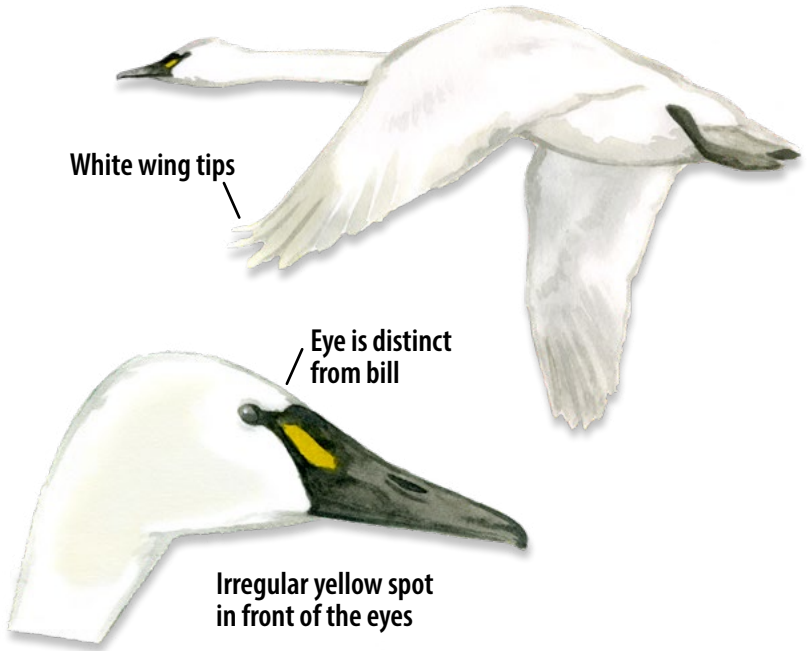
Snow goose



SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Tundra swan

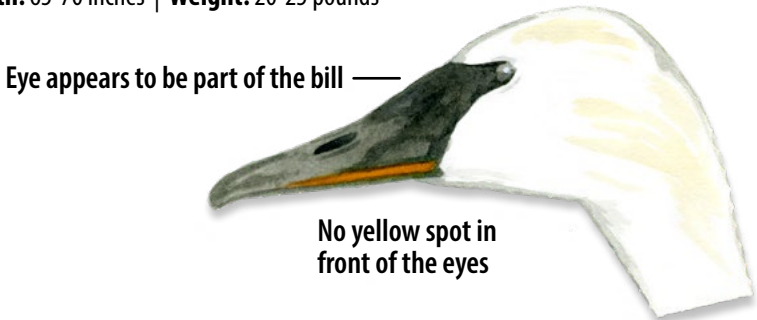
Length: 55-60 inches | **Weight:** 12-16 pounds

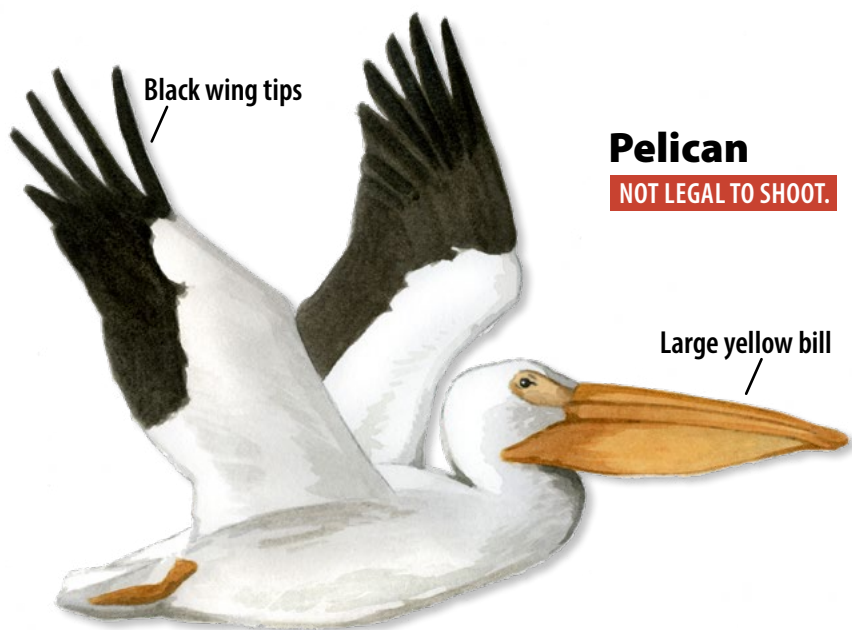


Trumpeter swan

NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.

Length: 65-70 inches | **Weight:** 20-25 pounds





Pelican

NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.

Snipe

The snipe usually flushes singly or in pairs and has a rust-colored patch on the back. The dowitcher, which flushes in flocks, has white feathers.



Dowitcher

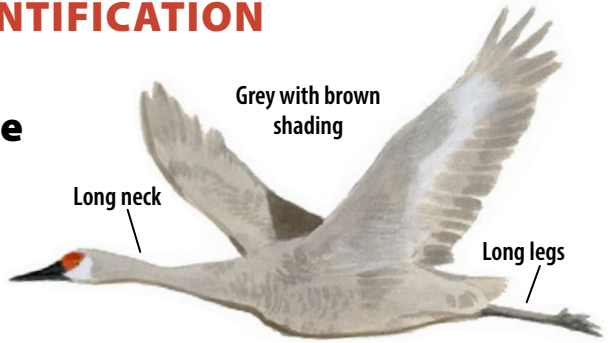
NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Sandhill crane

Length: 46 inches
Weight: up to 11 pounds

Large, gray bird with a long neck and legs. Known for its loud, rolling bugle call. Often confused with the great blue heron, which is smaller, more blue-gray, flies with its neck in an S-shape and is not legal to hunt.

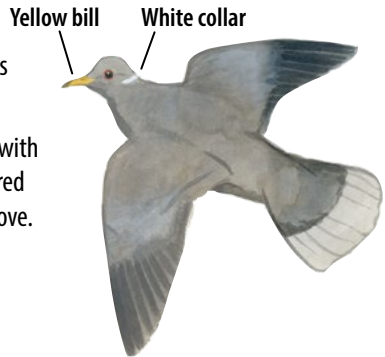


Crane illustration by Ben Sutter

Band-tailed pigeon

Length: 12-16 inches | **Weight:** 11-12 ounces

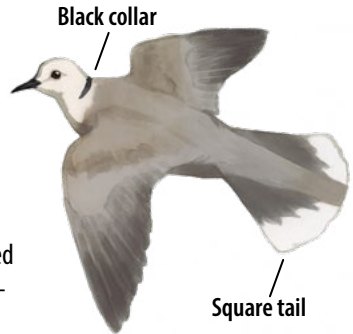
Large, gray pigeon with yellow bill and feet, a white crescent collar and a broad, rounded tail with a dark band. Sometimes called the white-collared pigeon. Commonly mistaken for the collared-dove.



Collared-dove

Length: 12-14 inches | **Weight:** 6-8 ounces

Pale gray dove with a black collar on the back of the neck, pinkish feet and a square tail. Collared-doves—along with similar hybrids and color morphs—are invasive and are not migratory game birds. Collared-doves may be hunted year-round, statewide, with any legal weapon; no license or permit is required. Harvested collared-doves do not count toward mourning or white-winged dove bag and possession limits.



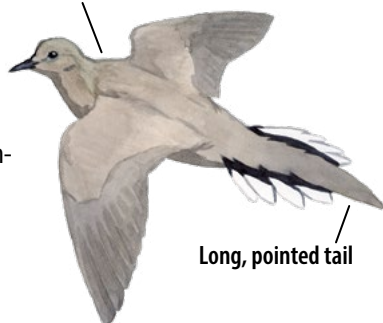
Illustrations by Ben Sutter

Mourning dove

Length: 11-13 inches | **Weight:** 4-5 ounces

Slender, light brown dove with a small head, black spots on the wings and a long, pointed tail edged in white. Mourning doves have a soft, mournful call and a distinctive whistling sound made by their wings during takeoff. Often fly with white winged doves, but can be distinguished by rapid wingbeats, erratic flight pattern and pointed tail.

Pale grayish-brown head, neck and breast



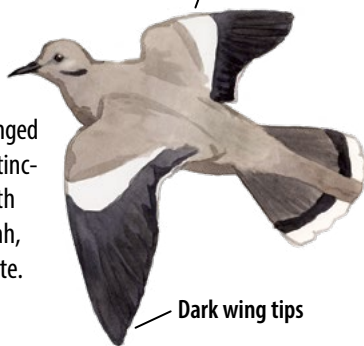
Long, pointed tail

White-winged dove

Length: 11-13 inches | **Weight:** 4-6 ounces

Slightly larger than a mourning dove, the white-winged dove has a long, moderately rounded tail and a distinctive white bar across its upper wing contrasting with dark primary feathers. Relatively uncommon in Utah, primarily found in the southwestern part of the state.

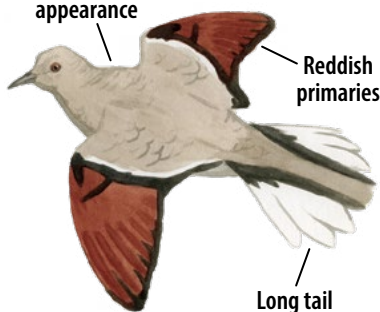
White wing patch



Dark wing tips

NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.

Scaly appearance



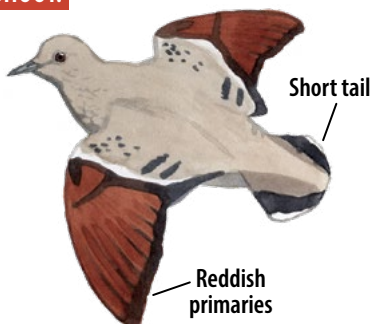
Reddish primaries

Long tail

Inca dove

Both Inca and ground doves are small birds, approximately half the size of a mourning dove. Both are gray and fly close to the ground with rapid wingbeats. The Inca has a scaly appearance and a long tail with white margins. The ground dove has a short, round, dark tail. Hunters are most likely to encounter these birds in southern Utah.

Short tail



Reddish primaries

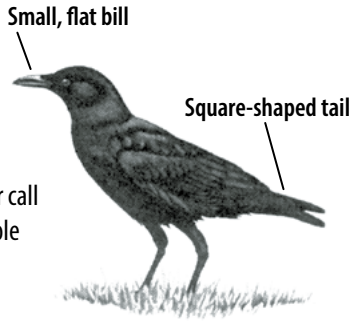
Ground dove

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

American crow

Length: 15-19 inches | **Weight:** up to 2 pounds

Crows beat their wings quickly and rarely glide. Their call is a quick, high-pitched “caw” that is repeated multiple times. Crows hop when they are on the ground.



Raven

NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.



Blackbird

NOT LEGAL TO SHOOT.



Pay attention to the tail

American crows, which may be hunted, have square-shaped tails.



Ravens, which may **not** be hunted, have v-shaped tails.



DEFINITIONS

CFR 20.11, Utah Code § 23A-1-101 and Utah Admin. Rule R657-9-2

Bait means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices migratory game birds.

Baited area 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.

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.

CFR means the Code of Federal Regulations.

Closed season means the days on which migratory game birds shall not be taken.

Daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species, or combination (aggregate) of species, permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

Dark geese means the following species: cackling, Canada and brant.

Division means the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Domicile means the place:

- where an individual has a fixed permanent home and principal establishment;
- to which the individual if absent, intends to return and has an actual plan, method, and means to return to the individual's domicile within six months;
- in which the individual and the individual's family voluntarily reside, not for a special or temporary purpose, but with the intention of making a permanent home; and

- is a place where the individual resides for the majority of the individual's time.

To create a new domicile an individual must:

- abandon the old domicile; and
- be able to prove that a new domicile has been established.

Drone means an autonomously controlled, aerial vehicle of any size or configuration that is capable of controlled flight without a human pilot aboard.

Light geese means the following species: snow, blue and Ross's.

Live decoys means tame or captive ducks, geese or other live birds.

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning or herbicide treatments. The term "manipulation" does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from storage on the field where grown.

Migratory bird preservation facility means Any person who—at their residence or place of business, and for hire or other consideration—receives, possesses or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

- Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant that for hire or other consideration receives, possesses or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.
- Any hunting club that in the normal course of operations receives, possesses or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

Migratory game birds means those migratory birds included in the terms of conventions between the United States and any foreign country for the protection of migratory birds, for which open seasons are prescribed in this part and belong to the following families:

- *Anatidae* (ducks, mergansers, swans and geese, including brant)
- *Columbidae* (doves and pigeons)
- *Corvidae* (American crow)
- *Gruidae* (cranes)
- *Rallidae* (rails, coots and gallinules)
- *Scolopacidae* (woodcock and snipe)

Motorized vehicle means a vehicle that is self-propelled or possesses the ability to be self-propelled. This does not include vehicles moved solely by human power, motorized wheelchairs, or an electric personal assisted mobility device.

Natural vegetation means any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term “natural vegetation” does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

Nonresident means a person who does not qualify as a resident.

Nontoxic shot means soft iron, steel, copper-plated steel, nickel-plated steel, zinc-plated steel, bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tin and any other shot types approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lead, nickel-plated lead, copper-plated lead, copper and lead/copper alloy shot have not been approved.

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting or post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

Northern Zone includes all of Box Elder, Cache, Daggett, Davis, Duchesne, Morgan, Rich, Salt Lake, Summit, Uintah, Utah, Wasatch and Weber counties, and the portion of Tooele County that is north of I-80.

Off-highway vehicle means any motor vehicle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

Open season means the days on which migratory game birds may lawfully be taken. Each period prescribed as an open season shall be construed to include the first and last days thereof.

Permanent waterfowl blind means any waterfowl blind that is left unattended, overnight and that is not a portable structure capable of immediate relocation.

Possession means actual or constructive possession.

Possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

Resident means a person who has a domicile (fixed permanent home and principal establishment) in Utah for six consecutive months imme-

diately preceding the purchase of a license—or application of a license, permit or tag—and does not claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

An individual retains Utah residency if he or she leaves Utah to serve in the armed forces of the United States, or for religious or educational purposes, and does **not** claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

Members of the armed forces of the United States and dependents are residents as of the date the member reports for duty under assigned orders in Utah if:

- the member is **not** on temporary duty in Utah and does **not** claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.
- the member presents a copy of his or her assignment orders to a Division office to verify the member's qualification as a resident.

A nonresident attending an institution of higher learning in Utah as a full-time student may qualify as a resident if the student has been present in Utah for 60 consecutive days immediately preceding the purchase of the license or permit and does **not** claim residency for hunting, fishing or trapping in any other state or country.

A Utah resident license or permit is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing or trapping is purchased in any other state or country. An individual **does not** qualify as a resident if he or she is an absentee landowner paying property tax on land in Utah.

Retrieval zone means areas adjacent to rest areas where game retrieval is allowed but hunting is restricted.

Sinkbox means any type of low floating device, having a depression, affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

Snipe means the following species: common, Jack, pin-tailed, solitary, Swinhoe's and Wilson's snipe.

Spoiled means impairment of the flesh of wildlife which renders it unfit for human consumption.

Southern Zone includes all of Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Washington and Wayne counties and the portion of Tooele County that is south of I-80.

Tag means a card, label or other identification device used for attachment to the carcass of any protected wildlife.

Take means to hunt, pursue, harass, catch, capture, possess, gather, angle, seine, trap or kill any protected wildlife; or attempt any of these actions.

Transport means to ship, export, import or receive or deliver for shipment.

Waste means to abandon protected wildlife or to allow protected wildlife to spoil or to be used in a manner not normally associated with its beneficial use.

Waterfowl means ducks, including mergansers, geese, brant and swans.

Waterfowl blind means any manufactured place of concealment, including boats, rafts, tents, excavated pits, or similar structure, which has been designed to partially or completely conceal a person while hunting waterfowl.

Waterfowl management area means the following properties owned or managed by the Division primarily for the conservation, production, or recreational harvest of ducks, mergansers, geese, brant, swans, and other waterfowl: Bicknell Bottoms, Brown's Park, Blue Lake, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Fitzgerald, Howard Slough, Harold Crane, Locomotive Springs, Mallard Springs, Manti Meadows, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Public Shooting Grounds, Powell Slough, Provo River Delta, Redmond Marsh, Rock Island, Salt Creek, Stewart Lake, Timpie Springs, Topaz, Warm Springs and Willard Spur.

Youth means a person who will be 17 years of age or younger on July 31.

QUICK-REFERENCE CALENDAR

See pages 38-41 for shooting areas, closures, youth hunting dates and other important details. Falconry season dates are aligned with traditional waterfowl hunting dates. However, falconry bag and possession limits vary and are listed on page 40.

SPECIES	ZONE	HUNT	BAG/POS.
Ducks and mergansers	Northern duck	General	7 / 21*
	Southern duck		
Scaup	Northern duck	General	2 / 6*
	Southern duck		
Coots	Northern duck	General	25 / 75
	Southern duck		
Snipe	Northern duck	General	8 / 24
	Southern duck		
Dark geese (cackling, Canada, brant)	Eastern Box Elder	General	5 / 15
	Northern goose area		
	Southern goose area		
	Wasatch Front goose area		
White-fronted geese	Eastern Box Elder	General	10 / 30
	Northern goose area		
	Southern goose area		
	Wasatch Front goose area		
Light geese (snow, blue, Ross's)	Eastern Box Elder, Northern and Wasatch Front goose areas	General	20 / 60
	Southern goose area		
Tundra swan**	See detailed maps at hunt.utah.gov	Permit required	1
American crow	Statewide		10 / 30
Band-tailed pigeon	Statewide		2 / 6
Mourning and white-winged dove	Statewide		15 / 45
Sandhill crane	See detailed maps at hunt.utah.gov	Permit required	1

YOUTH HUNT DATES IN RED

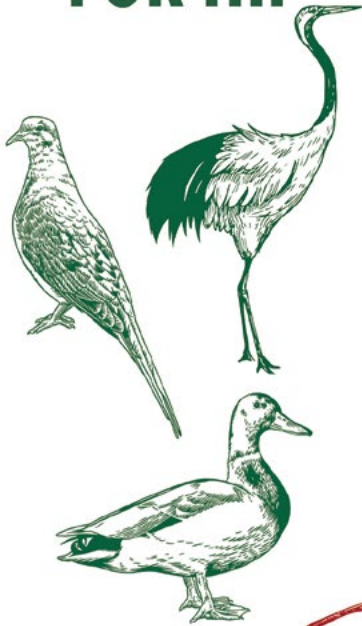
*The combined daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers and scaup is 7 birds, except no more than the following number of each species: 2 canvasbacks, 2 female mallards, 3 pintail, 2 readheads, 2 wood ducks and 2 scaup. Possession limit is three times the daily limit.

**The swan season may close early if trumpeter swan take limits are met; see page 43 for details.

	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH
	9/20	10/4			1/17		
	9/27	10/11			1/24		
	9/20	10/4		12/28			
	9/27		10/31		1/24		
	9/20	10/4			1/17		
	9/27	10/11			1/24		
		10/4			1/17		
		10/11			1/24		
	9/20	10/4			1/17		
	9/20	10/4-11	10/27		1/31		
	9/27	10/11			1/24		
	9/20	10/4-11	11/10			2/15	
	9/20	10/4			1/17		
	9/20	10/4-11	10/27		1/31		
	9/27	10/11			1/24		
	9/20	10/4-11	11/10			2/15	
		10/15		12/22		2/2	3/10
		10/25		12/15		1/15	3/10
	9/20	10/4		12/14			
	9/1-30			12/1		2/28	
	9/1-14	FALCONRY DATES VARY, SEE PAGE 41.					
	9/1	10/30	FALCONRY DATES VARY, SEE PAGE 41.				
	9/6		11/25	SEASON DATES VARY BY LOCATION: CHECK YOUR PERMIT			

The **Harvest Information Program (HIP)** is a legally required certification for migratory bird hunters that helps biologists manage migratory birds.

✓ REGISTER FOR HIP



REGISTER FOR HIP if you intend to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, doves, American crows, band-tailed pigeons, cranes, coots and snipe).

✗ SKIP HIP



DO NOT REGISTER FOR HIP if you do not intend to hunt migratory birds.



Learn more about federal migratory bird harvest surveys at fws.gov



Register for HIP number or look up an existing registration at wildlife.utah.gov/uthip