



STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: June 9, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Waterfowl and Other Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for 2008-2009  
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 13 of 2008  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this State.

Discussion and Background:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually prescribes migratory bird hunting season frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur, and the maximum number of birds that may be taken and possessed. Federal frameworks are negotiated with states via the Flyway Councils with this process being partitioned into early season and late season selections. Late seasons generally open following the Saturday closest to September 24. Late season selections are submitted to the USFWS by August 30 each year. In Michigan, late seasons currently include the regular goose season in the Lower Peninsula, duck seasons, the late Canada goose season, and seasons on mergansers, coots, and moorhens. The falconry season is also among the late seasons.

The Department's submission for the late Federal frameworks for waterfowl regulations will be finalized in August after Federal frameworks have been established. Our recommendations and options will be based on State and Federal assessments of waterfowl population status, habitat conditions, and public input, including discussion with the Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Committee, at their August 2, 2008 meeting.

We have included appropriate sections from the Wildlife Conservation Order, as amended during 2007, to identify those sections likely requiring amendment in 2008. Dates listed in these sections reflect anticipated 2008-2009 seasons, but are used as placeholders only; the final dates will be provided as soon as they become available. We will again be requesting authority for the Chief of the Wildlife Division to close goose hunting at Goose Management Units when the harvest quota allocated to these units has been achieved, if goose management unit quotas are continued.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

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Under consideration again for the 2008-2009 Canada goose regular season is the option to discontinue use of existing population unit boundaries (i.e., Mississippi Valley Population and Southern James Bay Population) to allow management of goose harvest within the zones currently authorized for duck seasons (i.e., North, Middle, and South Zones). The Tuscola/Huron, Saginaw County, Muskegon County Wastewater, and Allegan County Goose Management Units may be retained under this option, but Canada goose harvest quotas would be dropped for these Units. Changes to Canada goose hunting units and quotas will be contingent upon Flyway Council and USFWS approval.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's June 30, 2008, calendar and may be eligible for approval on August 14, 2008.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief  
Wildlife Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division

Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Armindia S. Koch  
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa  
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

## Amendment No. 13 of 2008

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders that, effective August 15, 2008, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

### **3.415 Migratory birds, possession limit defined, open seasons.**

Sec. 3.415. The migratory bird possession limit shall be twice the daily limit except that the possession limit for blue, snow, and ross' geese shall be three times the daily limit. The migratory bird hunting open seasons shall be as follows:

<b>Season and Species</b>	<b>Zone or Management Unit</b>	<b>Open Season</b>
Ducks	North Zone	September 29 to November 27
	Middle Zone	September 29 to November 25 and December 1 to December 2
	South Zone	October 6 to December 2 and January 5 to January 6, 2009
Merganser		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones.
Coots and Moorhens		Same dates as ducks in the respective zones.
Canada Goose (regular season)	Upper Peninsula Mississippi Valley Population Unit	September 18 to November 1
	Lower Peninsula Mississippi Valley Population Unit	October 6 to November 12 and November 22 to November 28
	Southern James Bay Population Unit	October 6 to October 14 and November 22 to December 12
	Tuscola/Huron GMU	October 6 to November 24 (or quota)
	Saginaw County GMU	October 6 to November 24 (or quota)
	Allegan County GMU	November 24 to December 2 and December 27 to January 31, 2009
	Muskegon W.W. GMU	October 16 to November 13 and December 1 to December 16

Canada Goose (special late season)	Southern Michigan Goose Management Unit as defined in section 12.700 of this order.	January 5 to February 3, 2009
Brant, Snow, White-fronted, and Ross' Geese	Statewide	September 22 to December 3

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### **3.416 Migratory game birds; daily limit.**

Sec. 3.416. The daily limit of migratory game birds for the seasons specified in section 3.415 shall be as follows:

#### **Ducks, daily limit.**

(1) The daily limit shall be 6 ducks of which no more than 4 may be mallards, no more than 1 may be a female mallard, no more than 1 may be a black duck, no more than 2 may be wood ducks, no more than 2 may be scaup, no more than 1 may be a pintail, no more than 2 may be canvasbacks, and no more than 2 may be redheads.

#### **Merganser, daily limit.**

(2) The daily limit shall be 5 mergansers of which no more than 2 may be a hooded merganser.

#### **Canada geese, north, middle, and south zones, daily limit.**

(3) In the north, middle, and south zones as described in sections 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9, the daily limit shall be 2 Canada geese.

#### **Canada geese, daily limit, exceptions.**

(4) The Canada goose daily limit shall be 2 except:

- (a) In the Saginaw county, and Tuscola/Huron goose management units, the daily limit shall be 1 Canada goose.
- (b) During the Canada goose special late season, the daily limit shall be 5 Canada geese.

#### **Other geese, daily limit.**

(5) The daily limit on light geese (snow/blue and ross'), shall be 10. The daily limit on brant and white-fronted geese shall be 1.

#### **Coots and moorhens (gallinules), daily limit.**

(6) The daily limit of coots and moorhens shall be 15 of each species.

### **3.418 Goose management units, harvest quotas; department's wildlife chief to close season.**

Sec. 3.418. (1) The following goose management units, described in sections 12.701 to 12.705 of this order, shall be open to goose hunting until the open seasons stipulated in section 3.415 of this order expire, or until the wildlife division chief determines that the following listed quota of Canada geese has been harvested:

- (a) Saginaw county goose management unit - quota of 2,000 Canada geese.
- (b) Tuscola/Huron goose management unit - quota of 750 Canada geese.

(2) When the wildlife division chief determines that the quota of Canada geese for a management unit listed in this section has been harvested, the chief shall issue an interim order to close the goose hunting season in that unit.

**3.422 Migratory birds, falconry, seasons; daily limit, possession limit.**

Sec. 3.422. (1) The open season for taking migratory game birds by falconry shall be as follows:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Seasons</b>
Common snipe; Woodcock; Virginia and sora rails	The open season for these species shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species
Geese	The open season for taking these species shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units.
Ducks; mergansers; coots and moorhens	The open season for these species shall be the same dates as the firearm seasons in the respective zones for these species, plus the season shall also be open statewide from January 25, to March 10, 2009

(2) The daily limit for migratory game birds taken by falconry shall be 3 birds combined, and the possession limit shall be 6 birds combined.

Issued this 14th day of August, 2008.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman  
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director