

HUNTING ON FEDERAL LANDS

State regulations and license requirements apply on federal lands.

Some of the areas listed below may be closed to hunting. For specific information, contact the appropriate federal entity:

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, NC 27954
Phone 252-473-1131

Camp Lejeune

Conservation Law Enforcement Office, Assistant Chief of Staff
Installation Security and Safety Dept, Building PT-3,
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542
Phone 910-451-5226

Cape Hatteras National Seashore

1401 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954
Phone 252-473-2111

Cape Lookout National Seashore

131 Charles St., Harkers Island, NC 28531
Phone 252-728-2250

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA 23434
Phone 757-986-3705

Fort Bragg

Wildlife Hunting and Fishing Center, Fort Bragg, NC 28307
Phone 910-396-7506

Mackay Island and Currituck National Wildlife Refuges

P.O. Box 39, Knotts Island, NC 27950
Phone 252-429-3100

Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point

Environmental Affairs Dept. Natural Resources Manager,
PSC Box 8003, Marine Corps Air Station,
Cherry Point, NC 28533-0003
Phone 252-466-3593

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

38 Mattamuskeet Rd., Swan Quarter, NC 27885
Phone 252-926-4021

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1969, Manteo, NC 27954
Phone 252-473-1131

Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge

5770 US Hwy 52 North, Wadesboro, NC 28170
Phone 704-694-4424

Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 329, Columbia, NC 27925
Phone 252-796-3004

Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 430, Windsor, NC 27983
Phone 252-794-3808

Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal

6280 Sunny Point Rd. SE, Southport, NC 28461
Phone 910-457-8291

U.S. Forest Service

160 Zillicoa St., Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801
Phone 828-257-4200

Blue Ridge Parkway

Permits and information about special parkway regulations governing access to adjoining game lands may be obtained from: The Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, National Park Service, 199 Hemphill Knob Rd., Asheville, NC 28803. Phone 828-271-4779.

BIG GAME

BEAR

Nonresidents hunting bear must possess a bear/wild boar hunting license (See page 8).

Restrictions It is unlawful to do any of the following:

- Hunt bear in any areas not included in the listings below.
- Take a cub (less than 50 pounds) or a female bear with cub(s).
- Take a bear with the use or aid of bait, which includes any salt, salt lick, grain, fruit, honey, sugar-based material or substance, animal parts or animal products.
- Place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an open season for taking black bears. Processed food products are any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products. The prohibition against taking bears with the use and aid of bait does not apply to the release of dogs in the vicinity of any food source that is not a processed food product. However, dogs may not be released in the vicinity of any commercially available mineral supplement whether placed for the purpose of attracting deer or otherwise.
- Hunt bear on a bear sanctuary. (See the information below on bear sanctuaries.)

BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Season limit 1

WESTERN BEAR SEASON

Oct. 17 – Nov. 19
Dec. 12 – Jan. 2

West of the boundary formed by I-77 from the Virginia state line to I-40 and I-40 west to N.C. 18 south to the South Carolina state line.

Note: Further game land restrictions may apply. See the Game Lands section for specific game land rules.

EASTERN BEAR SEASONS:

Nov. 14 – Jan. 2

In the following counties:

Bladen	Onslow
Carteret	Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bear is prohibited here.)
Cumberland	Pender
Duplin	Sampson
New Hanover	

Dec. 5 – Dec. 24

Brunswick Columbus

Nov. 14 – Nov. 19 and Dec. 12 – Dec. 24

In the following counties:

Beaufort	Hyde
Camden	Jones
Chowan	Pasquotank
Craven	Tyrrell
Dare	Washington

Nov. 14 – Nov. 19 and Dec. 12 – Dec. 14

In the following counties:

Halifax	Northampton
Martin	
Nov. 12 – Nov. 19 and Dec. 12 – Dec. 24	
Bertie	Hertford
Currituck	Perquimans
Gates	

Nov. 14 – Nov. 19
Greene

Pitt

Lenoir

Bear Sanctuaries Bear may not be taken in those parts of counties included in the following sanctuaries:

Sanctuary	Applicable County or Counties
Bachelor Bay Bear Sanctuary	Bertie, Martin and Washington
Bombing Range Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)	Dare
Daniel Boone Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)	Avery, Burke and Caldwell
Columbus County Bear Sanctuary	Columbus
Croatan Bear Sanctuary	Carteret, Craven and Jones
Fires Creek Bear Sanctuary	Clay
Flat Top Bear Sanctuary	Mitchell and Yancey
Green Swamp Bear Sanctuary	Brunswick
Gull Rock Bear Sanctuary	Hyde
Gum Swamp Bear Sanctuary	Pamlico and Beaufort
Harmon Den Bear Sanctuary	Haywood
Panthertown-Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary	Jackson
Mt. Mitchell Bear Sanctuary (except by permit only)	McDowell and Yancey
North River Bear Sanctuary	Camden and Currituck
Pisgah Bear Sanctuary	Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
Pungo River Bear Sanctuary	Hyde
Rich Mountain Bear Sanctuary	Madison
Sherwood Bear Sanctuary	Haywood
Standing Indian Bear Sanctuary	Macon
Suggs Mill Pond Bear Sanctuary	Bladen
Thurmond Chatham Bear Sanctuary	Wilkes
Wayah Bear Sanctuary	Macon

The following additional restrictions apply to bear sanctuaries:

- It is unlawful to take wild boar on bear sanctuaries except during the deer archery season, deer muzzleloading season, deer gun season and any small game season using only weapons and manner of take prescribed for that hunting season.
- Dogs may not be used to take wild boar.
- Dogs may not be used to pursue bear.
- The Harmon Den Bear Sanctuary and Sherwood Bear Sanctuary in Haywood County are closed to raccoon, bobcat and opossum hunting.
- It is unlawful to train dogs or allow dogs to run unleashed on bear sanctuaries in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties from March 1 until the Monday on or nearest Oct. 15.

Attention Bear Hunters: The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is collecting information from black bears harvested by hunters. We use the upper premolar tooth (located directly behind the upper canine tooth) from a harvested bear to determine the bear's age. This information helps us monitor the status of our bear population, which is an important aspect of our bear management program.

If you harvest a bear, please contact our wildlife staff in the field so that a tooth and other information may be collected. If you cannot locate wildlife staff, please call the Wildlife Management division at 919-707-0050 so that we may send information to you on how to collect the tooth. If you provide a tooth, we will mail the age of the bear you harvested to you prior to the next hunting season. Your cooperation is appreciated.

When reporting your big game harvest online this year, commemorate and acknowledge it by filling out and printing a Big Game Harvest Record Certificate. This certificate, provided in deer, turkey and bear formats, is accessed at www.ncwildlife.org under the Report Big Game Harvest link. You can also print a certificate for a previous harvest.

DEER

EASTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Sept. 30
Muzzleloader: Oct. 1 – Oct. 14
Gun: Oct. 15 – Jan. 2

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Oct. 28
Muzzleloader: Oct. 29 – Nov. 11
Gun: Nov. 12 – Jan. 2

NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Nov. 4
Muzzleloader: Nov. 5 – Nov. 18
Gun: Nov. 19 – Jan. 2

WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 12 – Oct. 1 and Oct. 17 – Nov. 19
Muzzleloader: Oct. 3 – Oct. 15
Gun: Nov. 21 – Dec. 10

Seasons See the maps on the following pages for season dates for deer with visible antlers, primitive weapons seasons and general season dates for either-sex deer.

- Seasons for deer with visible antlers and primitive weapons seasons on game lands follow the season for the county in which they are located except for Buffalo Cove Game Land, Nicholson Creek Game Land, Rockfish Creek Game Land, Sandhills Game Land and South Mountains Game Land. See the Game Lands section for additional restrictions on these Game Lands seasons. Refer to the “Game Lands” section for Gun Either-Sex Deer Season dates on game lands.

General Restrictions

- Any person hunting deer during a deer firearms season shall wear hunter orange. This includes hunting on Sundays during the muzzleloader or gun seasons, even though hunters may only use archery equipment on Sundays. Landholders, their spouses and children hunting on land held by the landholder do not have to wear hunter orange.
- Deer with visible antlers may be taken during any open deer season. Antlerless deer may only be taken during either-sex deer seasons. See page 55 for information about either-sex seasons.
- Visible antlers are defined as bony structures that protrude through the skin. Knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet are not considered visible antlers.
- It is unlawful to place processed food products as bait in any area of the state with an open season for taking black bears. Processed food products are any food substance or flavoring that has been modified by the addition of ingredients or by treatment to modify its chemical composition or form or to enhance its aroma or taste. This includes: food products enhanced by sugar, honey, syrups, oils, salts, spices, peanut butter, grease, meat, bones, or blood; candies, pastries, gum, and sugar blocks; and extracts of such products.
- The placement of commercially available mineral supplements specifically and exclusively marketed for attracting or feeding deer is allowed anywhere in the state, except on game lands.

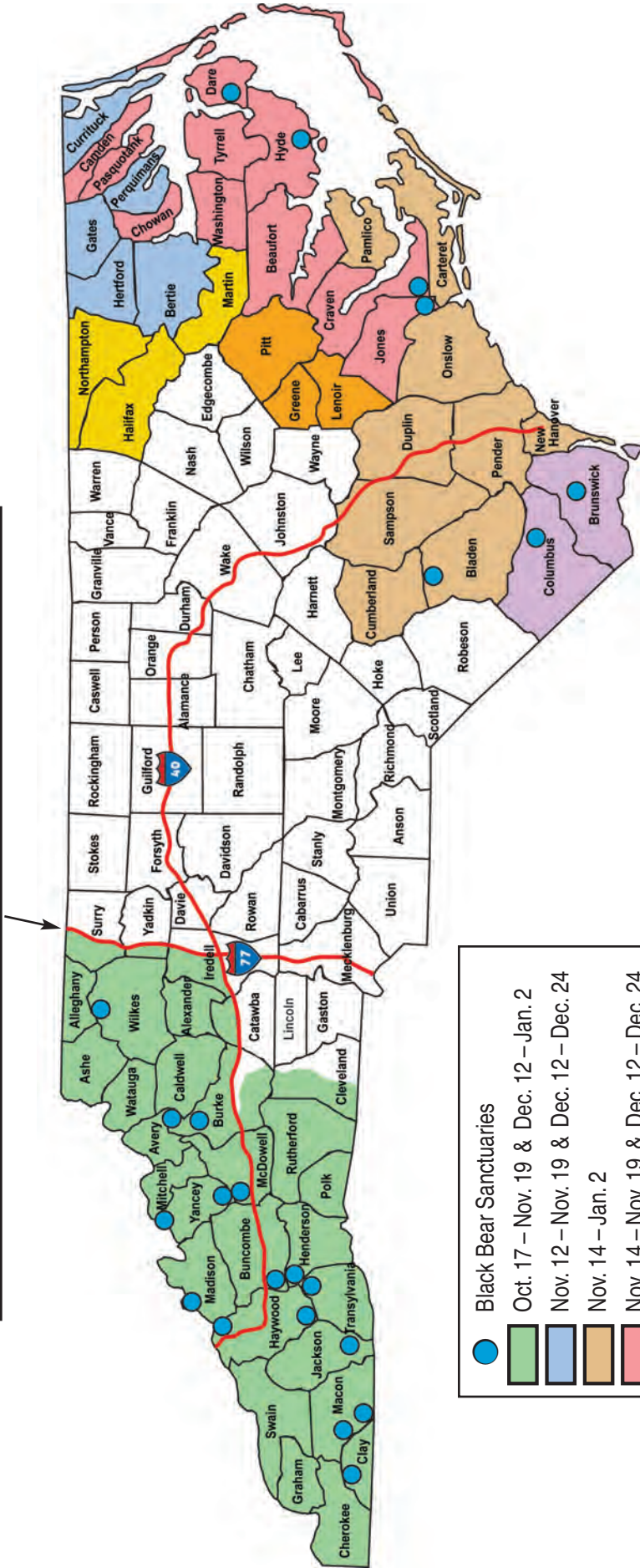
Weapons and Dogs

- Archery: During the archery season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows and crossbows (both described on page 42). It is unlawful to carry any type of firearm or to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, **except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.**

(continued on page 55)

2011 – 2012 BEAR SEASON

The western bear season boundary is I-77 from Virginia to the intersection with I-40, continuing along I-40 West until the intersection of N.C. 18 and then N.C. 18 to South Carolina.



Bear Hunters:
 Become a Bear Cooperator by helping us monitor our bear population. Call 919-707-0050 for more information.



WESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 12 – Oct. 1
 Oct. 17 – Nov. 19
 Muzzleloader: Oct. 3 – Oct. 15
 Gun: Nov. 21 – Dec. 10

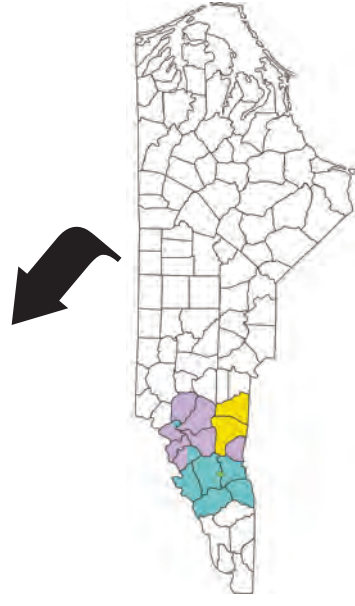
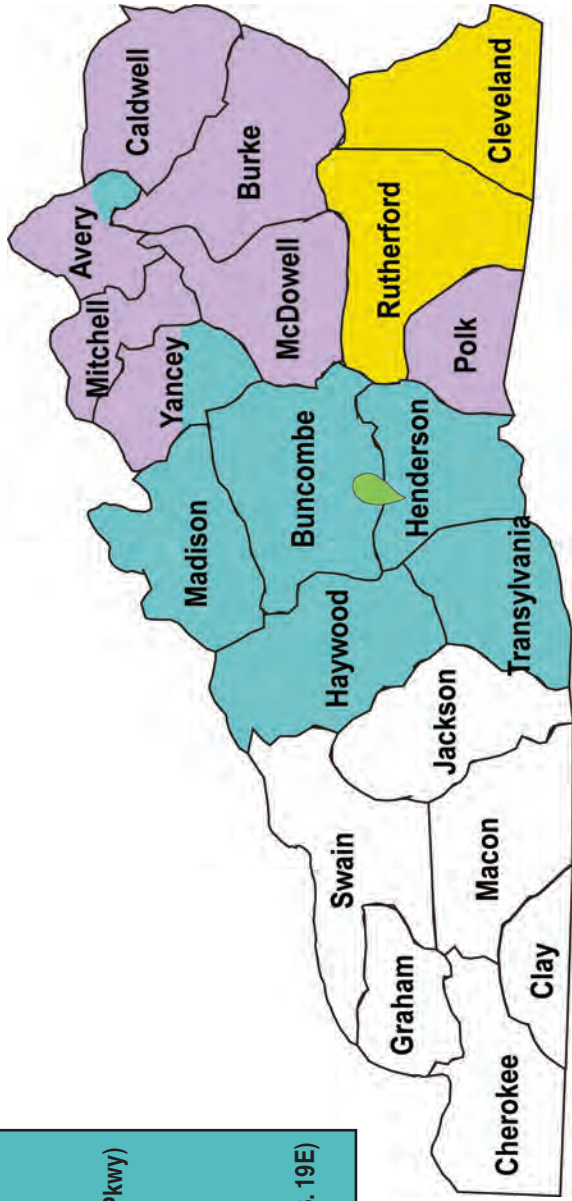
Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Introductory Season)
 Dec. 10
 Avery (south of the Blue Ridge Pkwy)
 Buncombe
 Haywood
 Henderson
 Madison
 Transylvania
 Yancey (south of U.S. 19 and U.S. 19E)

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Conservative Season)
 Dec. 5 – Dec. 10
 Avery (north of the Blue Ridge Pkwy)
 Burke
 Caldwell
 McDowell
 Mitchell
 Polk
 Yancey (north of U.S. 19 and U.S. 19E)

No Either-Sex Season
 Cherokee
 Clay
 Graham
 Jackson
 Macon
 Swain

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Moderate Season)
 Nov. 21 – Nov. 26
 Dec. 19 – Dec. 24
 Cleveland
 Rutherford

Gun Either-Sex Season*
 (Maximum Season)
 Nov. 21 – Dec. 10
 Buncombe: that part east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, west of U.S. 25 and north of N.C. 280.
 Henderson: that part east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.



*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.
 Note: The Gun Season in Cleveland and Rutherford counties ends Dec. 24, except for South Mountains Game Land (see Game Lands section).

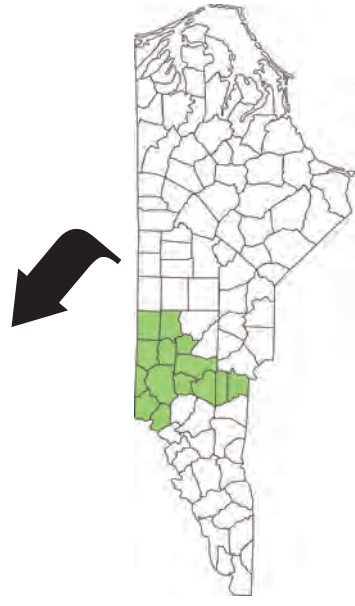
NORTHWESTERN DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Nov. 4
 Muzzleloader: Nov. 5 – Nov. 18
 Gun: Nov. 19 – Jan. 2

Does not include that portion of Buffalo Cove Game Land in Wilkes Co. (see Game Lands section).



Gun Either-Sex Season* (Maximum Season)
Nov. 19 – Jan. 2
Alexander Iredell
Allegany Lincoln
Ashe Stokes
Catawba Surry
Davie Wilkes
Forsyth Yadkin
Gaston Watauga

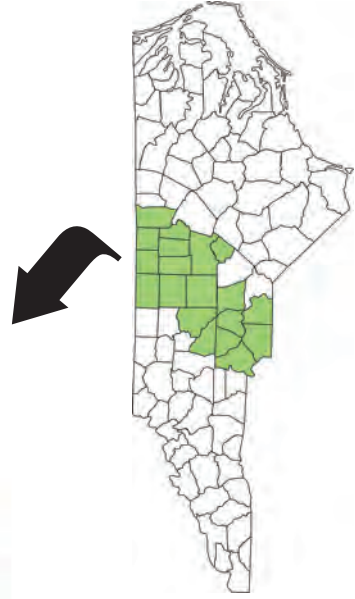


*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

CENTRAL DEER SEASON

Archery: Sept. 10 – Oct. 28
 Muzzleloader: Oct. 29 – Nov. 11
 Gun: Nov. 12 – Jan. 2

Gun Either-Sex Season* (Maximum Season) Nov. 12 – Jan. 2	
Alamance	Rockingham
Anson	Rowan
Caswell	Stanly
Cabarrus	Union
Chatham	
Davidson	Mecklenburg
Durham	Montgomery
Granville	Orange
Guilford	Person
Lee	Randolph



*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

EASTERN DEER SEASON

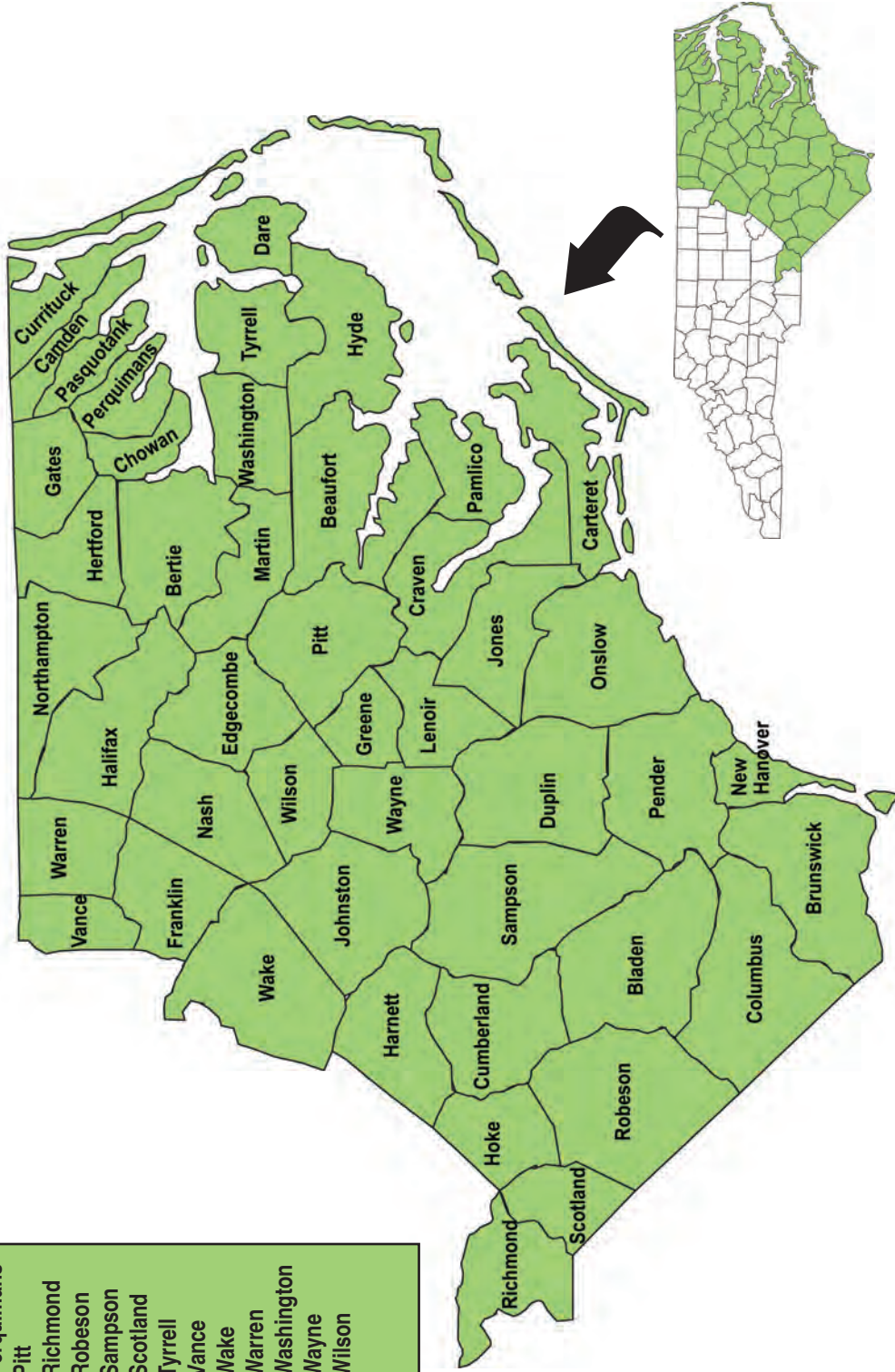
Archery: Sept. 10 – Sept. 30

Muzzleloader: Oct. 1 – Oct. 14

Gun: Oct. 15 – Jan. 2

Does not include Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek and Sandhills game lands. (See Game Lands section.)

Gun Either-Sex Season* (Maximum Season)	
Oct. 15 – Jan. 2	
Beaufort	Pasquotank
Bertie	Pender
Bladen	Perquimans
Brunswick	Pitt
Camden	Richmond
Carteret	Robeson
Chowan	Sampson
Columbus	Scotland
Craven	Tyrrell
Cumberland	Vance
Currituck	Wake
Dare	Warren
Duplin	Washington
Edgecombe	Wayne
Franklin	Wilson
Gates	



*Note: Either-Sex Gun Seasons on game lands may vary. See Game Lands section for Either-Sex Gun Seasons on the game land you will be hunting.

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- Muzzleloader. During the muzzleloader season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), muzzleloading rifles and muzzleloading shotguns. It is unlawful to carry a pistol or to use a dog while hunting deer during this season, **except to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.**
- Gun. During the gun season the following are legal weapons: bows and arrows, crossbows (both described on page 42), muzzleloading rifles, muzzleloading shotguns, shotguns, rifles and pistols. Caliber restrictions for pistols are on page 42. Hunters may use dogs to hunt deer during this season in counties indicated on the map on page 52, **and to retrieve a wounded deer. See page 42 for details.**

Bag Limits

- The big game hunting license authorizes the hunter to harvest up to six deer. All six deer can be antlerless for all areas of the state. The season limit for antlered deer in the Eastern Deer Season is four. The season limit for antlered deer in the Central, Northwestern, and Western deer seasons is two.
- There is no daily bag limit.
- The possession limit for antlered deer is the same as the season limit.
- The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in areas with a maximum either-sex season, or in those areas participating in the Urban Archery Season, is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license and any Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards he may have procured. The possession limit for antlerless deer harvested in all other areas is equivalent to the number of antlerless deer the hunter is authorized to harvest on his big game hunting license.
- Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards allow for the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card. These are NOT valid for use on game lands. Unlimited Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are available to each hunter. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are valid during archery, muzzleloader, and gun season in those areas with a maximum either-sex gun season. Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards are also valid in municipalities participating in the Urban Archery Season. For information on how to obtain Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards, go to www.ncwildlife.org or call 888-2HUNTFISH.
- Antlerless deer harvested under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) are not included in normal statewide bag limits. Hunters **participating in the program** must follow harvest restrictions prescribed in the DMAP.
- Note: Antlerless deer may be taken only in those areas and during those times described elsewhere in this publication.

Either-Sex Deer Seasons

Archery Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during archery deer season in all areas (includes game lands).

Muzzleloader Firearm Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may be taken during the last day of the muzzleloader firearm deer season in and west of Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Mitchell and Avery counties (includes game lands).
- Deer of either sex may be taken anytime during the muzzleloader firearm deer season in and east of Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga and Ashe counties (includes game lands).

Gun Either-Sex Deer Season

- Deer of either sex may only be taken during the gun season during those dates indicated on pages 48–51. Most gun either-sex seasons fall under one of the following four categories in North Carolina:
 - Maximum: Either-sex harvest is allowed the entire gun season.

- Moderate: Either-sex harvest is allowed the first six open days and the last six open days of the regular gun season.
- Conservative: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last six open days of the regular gun season.
- Introductory: Either-sex harvest is allowed the last open day of the regular gun season.

Urban Archery Season

Archery only: Jan. 14 – Feb. 18, 2012

Hunting during the Urban Archery Season is allowed ONLY in participating municipalities. Hunters may contact the following municipalities about hunting opportunities::

Cleveland	www.clevelandnc.org
Concord	704-920-5000; www.ci.concord.nc.us
Elkin	336-835-9800; www.elkinnc.org
Fairview	www.fairviewnc.gov
Kannapolis	704-920-4300; www.cityofkannapolis.com
Locust	www.locustnc.com
Midland	704-888-2232; www.townofmidland.us
Mooresboro	704-434-5666
Pleasant Garden	336-674-3002; www.pleasantgarden.net
Pittsboro	919-542-4621; http://pittsboronc.gov
Sanford	919-775-8211
Stanfield	www.stanfieldnc.com
Stokesdale	336-643-4011; www.stokesdale.org
Summerfield	336-643-8655; www.summerfield.gov
Troutman	704-528-7600; www.townoftroutman.org
Valdese	828-879-2102; www.ci.valdese.nc.us
Waxhaw	www.waxhaw.com
Weddington	704-846-2709; www.townofweddington.com
Yadkinville	336-679-8732; www.yadkinville.org

The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Division of Wildlife Management 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist. Following is additional information and restrictions pertaining to the Urban Archery Season:

- Deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season must be registered via telephone 800-I GOT ONE or online at www.ncwildlife.org. Deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season shall not be registered with a wildlife cooperater agent.
- Season bag limits, as well as possession limits, for both antlerless and antlered deer, including Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards, that apply to the general archery, muzzleloader, and gun deer seasons also apply to the Urban Archery Season.
- Deer of either sex may be harvested in participating areas during the Urban Archery Season. Hunters harvesting an adult buck that has dropped its antlers should validate the kill and insert the harvest authorization number on an authorization space specified for an antlerless deer on the hunter's Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.
- Hunters wishing to hunt in an area participating in the Urban Archery Season should call the participating municipality or visit its website to obtain a map showing lawful areas to hunt and additional information on specific restrictions that may apply to each area.
- The Urban Archery Season does not obligate private landowners to allow hunting on their property, nor does it eliminate the ethical requirement for obtaining permission from the landowner before hunting. Hunters are legally required to obtain written permission to hunt on posted property.

WILD BOAR

WILD BOAR SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Possession limit 1; Season limit 2
 In the following counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain

Sept. 12, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2011

In the other 94 counties of the state, feral hogs are not considered to be wild boars. **On Oct. 1, 2011, state law will no longer recognize wild boar. Therefore all wild swine (hogs) in the state, including those in the six western most counties, will be feral swine. After Sept. 30, 2011, feral swine will have no closed season, no bag limits and are subject to the manner of taking restrictions listed on pages 42 and 43. See page 62 for additional restrictions for taking feral swine (hogs) on game lands.**

During the open deer archery season, muzzleloader season, gun season and any small game season, ONLY weapons legal for that season may be used to take wild boar.

Restrictions It is unlawful to:

- Take wild boar with the use or aid of bait, which includes any salt, salt lick, grain, fruit, honey, sugar-based material or substance, animal parts or animal products.
- Use dogs to hunt wild boar outside of the open bear season.
- Use dogs to hunt wild boar at any time on bear sanctuaries.

Nonresidents hunting boar must possess a Bear/Wild Boar Hunting License. (See page 6 of this Digest.) **Effective Oct. 1, 2011, hunters will no longer be required to obtain a privilege license for hunting wild boar.**

WILD TURKEY

WILD TURKEY SEASONS

Daily limit 1; Possession limit 2
 Annual limit 2

Youth Day (male or bearded turkey only): April 7, 2012

Turkey hunting by youth on this day is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Each youth hunting during this season must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult at least 21 years of age (“Youth” means a person less than 16 years of age). The adult may accompany only one youth during any particular hunt and the adult may NOT harvest a turkey. Only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters.

Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only)
 April 14 – May 12, 2012

Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the Game Lands section.

Restrictions It is unlawful to:

- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use pistols, rifles or muzzleloading rifles to hunt wild turkey.
- Take wild turkeys from an area in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.



BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTING

After Sept. 30, 2011, hunters SHOULD NOT report wild boar. This applies to ALL counties.

Validating a Harvest Upon harvesting a bear, deer, wild boar or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card, furnished with the big game hunting license, by cutting or punching out the crosshair symbol next to the appropriate authorization line. Wild boar are only recognized and required to be reported in the following counties: Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card.

Registering a Harvest The hunter must register any harvested bear, deer, wild boar or wild turkey within 24 hours of the harvest and before it is skinned, dressed or dismembered.

- Harvest ID. The Big Game Harvest Report Card now includes a 9 digit Harvest ID # next to the name of the animal, below the authorization line. Hunters must locate the number next to the animal they want to register and be prepared to repeat this number to a cooperator agent, to the telephone reporting system or to type it in when reporting harvests online. Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone will be given the Harvest ID numbers during the call. When the harvest report card arrives in the mail, the hunter must immediately record the authorization number on the line above the Harvest ID number he or she used when reporting the harvest.
- Big game animals may be field dressed before being registered. Field dressing includes bleeding and removal of digestive, respiratory and circulatory organs, but the hunter may not mutilate the carcass in a manner that obscures the identity, age or sex.
- When a kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered.
- When a hunter harvests an animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time is extended until the hunter leaves the area; however the hunter must immediately register the animal upon leaving the remote area.
- Bear and deer (except those deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season) may be registered in one of three ways:
 1. By transporting the big game animal to a wildlife cooperator agent within the immediate area where hunting.
 2. By calling in the registration through the toll-free big game reporting system, 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch-tone telephone is required. Have a pencil or pen and the Big Game Harvest Report Card when you call.
 3. By using the Internet to register the harvest online at www.ncwildlife.org
- Wild turkeys, wild boar and deer harvested during the Urban Archery Season can only be registered by using either the toll-free telephone or the Internet big game reporting system.
- Hunters should report each harvest only ONCE. For example, if you have reported your harvest over the telephone, you

should not also register your harvest with a cooperater agent or on the Internet.

Recording the Authorization Number When a successful hunter registers a big game harvest, the hunter will be issued an authorization number for the animal. The hunter shall then record the authorization number in the space provided, immediately adjacent to the validation mark that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass. It shall be unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card on which the species validation mark has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number has not been recorded, unless the animal is in the person's possession.

Identifying an Unattended Kill Persons killing a big game animal and leaving it unattended must identify the carcass with their name, hunting license number and date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, it need only be identified with the authorization number.

Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters Persons who are by law exempt from the Big Game Hunting License requirement shall obtain a License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card from a wildlife service agent at no cost. Upon harvesting a bear, deer, wild boar or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate the License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Record Card and report the big game kill to a wildlife cooperater agent, by telephone or by the Internet.

Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting Persons harvesting deer under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.

SMALL GAME AND OTHER SEASONS

RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

Oct. 17 (at sunrise) – Feb. 29
 Opossum: No bag limits
 Raccoon daily limit 3; No possession or season limits
 Exceptions: These portions of the following counties are closed to raccoon and opossum hunting:
 Haywood; Harmon Den and Sherwood Bear Sanctuaries

General Restrictions

- Field possession limit while hunting is the same as the daily bag limit. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp or residence.
- Axes and saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.
- It is unlawful to shoot raccoon during the daytime, west of U.S. 1, except in Richmond County.
- It is unlawful to carry firearms or climbing irons when training dogs during closed seasons, except under special field-trial regulations.

SQUIRREL

Gray and Red (statewide): Oct. 17 – Feb. 29
 Daily limit 8; No possession or season limits
 Fox Squirrel: Oct. 17 – Dec. 31
 Daily limit 1; Possession 2; Season 10
 In the following counties:

Anson	Duplin	Jones	Pitt
Alleghany	Edgecombe	Lenoir	Richmond
Ashe	Greene	Moore	Sampson
Bladen	Harnett	New Hanover	Scotland
Brunswick	Hoke	Onslow	Wayne
Cumberland	Johnston	Pender	

RABBIT

Nov. 19 – Feb. 29
 Daily limit 5; No possession or season limits
 Box-Trapping Season:
 Nov. 19 – Feb. 29

QUAIL

Nov. 19 – Feb. 29
 Daily limit 6; Possession 12; Season, no limit

GROUSE

Oct. 17 – Feb. 29
 Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

BOBCAT

Oct. 17 – Feb. 29
 No limits
 Exceptions: the bobcat season is closed in Haywood County on the Harmon Den and Sherwood Bear Sanctuaries.

GROUNDHOG, NUTRIA, COYOTE, SKUNK (STRIPED), AND ARMADILLO AND AFTER SEPT. 30, 2011, FERAL SWINE (HOGS)

There is no closed season or bag limit.

PHEASANT

Nov. 19 – Feb. 1 (male pheasant only)
 Daily limit 3; Possession 6; Season 30

FOX

Year Round

- Must be taken with dogs only; no limits.
- Local laws may restrict hunting foxes with dogs. See the "Local Laws" section of this Digest or the "Fox Season Hunting and Trapping Laws" publication.

Nov. 19 – Jan. 2
 Daily limit 2; Season 10
 This season applies as follows:

- In those counties and parts of counties east of I-77 where local laws do not prohibit the taking of foxes or that do not have established fox seasons (see page 72 for local laws) and Mitchell and Caldwell counties.
- Foxes taken during this hunting season shall not be bought or sold.
- In Caldwell County, foxes may be taken by firearms only.

Jan. 7 – Jan. 28
 Daily limit 2; Season 10

- Foxes may be taken in the counties, listed below by legal weapons and may be sold after being properly tagged (refer to page 9 for more information on fox tags):

Caswell	Henderson
Clay	Macon
Graham	Tyrrell

- Hunters must possess fox tags prior to harvesting foxes during this season.

There is no open weapons hunting season in any other county except where provided by local laws. To see if your county has a hunting season on foxes, see page 72 of this Digest and the hunting page on www.ncwildlife.org. Click on "Fox Season Hunting and Trapping Laws."

EXTENDED SEASON FOR TAKE BY FALCONRY

Oct. 17 – Feb. 29 (Applies only to red and gray squirrels and rabbits)
 Outside of Regular Season Dates:
 Squirrels: Daily limit 4; Possession limit 8
 Rabbits: Daily limit 3; Possession limit 6
 Regular species bag limits apply during regular seasons.

BEAVER

There is an open season for taking beaver with firearms or bow and arrow during any open season for the taking of wild animals, provided that permission has been obtained from the owner or lessee of the land on which the beaver is being taken.

CONTROLLED HUNTING PRESERVES

Oct. 1 – Mar. 31

No limits.

This applies to domestically raised birds (mallard ducks and upland game birds) only.

No wild turkey may be taken.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Migratory Birds Protected Federal laws protecting migratory birds (songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors or waterfowl) take precedence over state laws. Before any migratory birds may be taken or killed during the closed season, a federal permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Substantial penalties for violations apply. Call the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Permits Section in Atlanta, Ga. at 404-679-7070 for information. Federal seasons and bag limits on migratory game birds are adopted as state regulations.

Colonial Water Bird Nesting Areas Coastal islands and beach areas posted as “Colonial Water Bird Nesting” areas are being managed for our nesting populations of pelicans, terns, gulls, herons and egrets. Special regulations apply. Access is prohibited on these areas from April 1–Aug. 31, except by special permit. Dogs are not allowed on these areas during this time period. Access on these areas from Sept. 1–March 30 will be allowed as authorized by the landowner.



It Takes a Hunter to Make a Hunter.

Mentor someone new to hunting this year!

What Motivates Hunters to Take Others Hunting?

- Someone showed an interest in hunting and asked to be taken.
- A desire to share hunting experiences and enjoy camaraderie.
- An opportunity to share the fun, enjoyment, and recreational aspects of hunting.
- An opportunity to encourage interest in hunting.
- Hunting is a family tradition and passing it on is important.
- A chance to preserve the hunting heritage for future generations.
- It is important to learn gun safety and shooting techniques.
- Mentoring provides an opportunity to give back to the person that mentored you.

Excerpts from “The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports,” Responsive Management, 2008.

Indirect Mentoring Opportunities:

Even if someone is unable or unprepared to become a hunting mentor, the following are some indirect ways to mentor a new hunter:

- Share hunting stories and outdoor skills.
- Share a wild game dinner.
- Share a hunting magazine subscription.
- Take someone along on a pre-hunting scouting or shooting trip.
- Introduce someone to the outdoors with a simple walk in the woods.
- Invite someone to a hunter education course
- Become a hunter education instructor.



“Those of us privileged to take to the field are entrusted by fate and circumstance to hold and nurture the hunter’s legacy.”

–Theodore Roosevelt

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – HUNTING STAMPS AND PRIVILEGES

Harvest Information Program (HIP) All licensed hunters hunting migratory game birds (dove, rails, woodcock, snipe or waterfowl) in North Carolina are required to have certification of participation in the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Certification can be obtained free of charge by going online at www.ncwildlife.org, calling 888-248-6834, or visiting a wildlife service agent.

Migratory Bird Hunting And Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older, must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or federal duck stamp, signed in ink across the face. (Hunters under age 16 may voluntarily purchase a duck stamp and help preserve wetlands for waterfowl.) Refer to page 4 for more information.

North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege Each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his person a license having the North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege. The North Carolina Waterfowl Privilege is required in addition to the federal duck stamp. Refer to the “License Types” section on page 4 of this digest for information on which licenses include this privilege license.

North Carolina Duck Stamp Hunters are no longer required to carry the North Carolina duck stamp while hunting for waterfowl; however, the current year’s duck stamp will be available for collecting purposes; call 888-248-6834 for more information.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS – SEASONS

Nongame Migratory

CROW SEASONS

Season	Bag Limits
Aug. 3, 2011 to Feb. 29, 2012–Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week plus Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.	No restriction
June 6, 2012 to July 28, 2012–Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week plus Independence Day.	

Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Dates, bag limits and shooting hours for doves, other webless migratory game birds and resident Canada geese will be available by Aug. 1. Dates, bag limits and shooting hours for waterfowl will be available by Sept. 1. To obtain information on these dates, bag limits and shooting hours, call the following toll-free number: 800-675-0263, or see our website at <http://www.ncwildlife.org>. Wildlife service agents will receive posters containing this information, and the information also will be distributed through local news media.

Youth Waterfowl Day Waterfowl hunting outside of the regular season is allowed on the day officially designated as “Youth Waterfowl Day.” Youths must be 15 years of age or younger and accompanied by a properly licensed adult at least 18 years of age. Legal species include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules and coots. The accompanying adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons open on Youth Waterfowl Day. Call 800-675-0263 after Sept. 1 for the date. Canada goose bag limits and any additional restrictions on Youth Waterfowl Day vary by the applicable hunt zone. See the Canada Goose Hunt Zone section for information about the Northeast Goose Hunt Zone. Any youth harvesting a tundra swan must have a valid swan permit.

WATERFOWL

TUNDRA SWAN

A limited number of permits will be issued to hunt tundra swans.

Permits will be issued by a random drawing authorizing each permit holder to harvest one tundra swan. The following regulations apply:

- The permit and tag are not transferable and are valid only for the person whose name appears on the permit. It is unlawful to possess a swan permit or tag while hunting that was assigned to another person, or to alter the permit or tag in any way other than cutting out the proper month and day of kill.
- The permit must be canceled by cutting out both the month and day of the kill immediately at the time and place of the kill.
- The permit must be affixed to the harvested swan in accordance with instructions provided with the permit.
- The permit must be carried on one’s person while hunting or, if in possession of a swan, the permit must be affixed to the swan.

Every hunter receiving a swan permit will also receive a questionnaire. If the hunter does not return that completed questionnaire to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1, that hunter will be ineligible for a tundra swan permit the following season. See the Wildlife Resources Commission’s *Permit Hunting Opportunities* publication for instructions on obtaining a swan permit.

SPECIAL SEA DUCK AREA

The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and oldsquaw), except during the regular duck season, shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of U.S. 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh. Special sea duck bag limits and seasons apply in these areas. During the regular season, this bag limit may be in addition to the limits applying to other ducks. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks, and they must be included in the regular duck season daily bag and possession limits.

SEPTEMBER TEAL ZONE

That area located east of U.S. 17 is designated as the “September Teal Zone.” Teal seasons occurring prior to Oct. 1 apply to this area only.

CANADA GOOSE HUNT ZONES

The state is divided into Canada goose hunt zones. See the map on page 54 for zone descriptions. For the hunt dates, bag limits or other restrictions that may apply in each zone, please call 800-675-0263 after Sept. 1, or visit our website at www.ncwildlife.org.

As with other migratory game birds, it is unlawful to hunt or possess Canada geese without having HIP certification as well as other applicable state and federal licenses and stamps in your possession.

GADDY GOOSE REFUGE

It is unlawful to harass or take any Canada goose during established goose hunting seasons that occur after Oct. 1 each year in the Gaddy Goose Refuge in Anson County. The Gaddy Goose Refuge is that area in Anson County starting at the N.C. 109 bridge over the Pee Dee River and following N.C. 109 south to SR 1650; west on S.R. 1650 to S.R. 1649; west on S.R. 1649 to U.S. 52; south on U.S. 52 to S.R. 1652; west on S.R. 1652 to S.R. 1641; west on S.R. 1641 to N.C. 742; northwest on N.C. 742 to Lanes Creek; north along Lanes Creek to the Rocky River; downstream on the Rocky River to the Pee Dee River; and downstream along the Pee Dee River to the beginning of the N.C. 109 bridge.

Nontoxic Shot Requirements In North Carolina, no person shall take waterfowl while possessing shells loaded with any shot other than steel or other approved nontoxic materials. On posted waterfowl impoundments on game lands, it is unlawful to hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting; except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Nontoxic shot is required for the taking of captive-reared mallards on shooting preserves, in field trials and during bona fide dog-training activities.

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds. **No persons shall take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased;
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese) or those selected for the control of resident Canada geese.
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- 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 or normal soil stabilization practice;

- 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.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl, coots and cranes**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

Wanton Waste of Migratory Game Birds No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Non-toxic Shot No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) other than approved nontoxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see (http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/nontoxic_shot/nontoxic.htm)

Opening Day of a Season No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field Possession Limit No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

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

Custody of Birds of Another No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Termination of Possession Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

Gift of Migratory Game Birds No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took