

(iii) The auxiliary lights shall be spaced at least 60 inches apart if the vertical distance from the headlight to the horizontal axis of the auxiliary lights is less than 60 inches.

(2) Each auxiliary light shall produce at least 200,000 candela.

(3) The auxiliary lights shall be focused horizontally within 15 degrees of the longitudinal centerline of the locomotive.

(e) Auxiliary lights required by paragraph (d) of this section may be arranged to burn steadily or flash on approach to a crossing. If the auxiliary lights are arranged to flash, they shall flash alternately at a rate of at least 40 flashes per minute and at most 180 flashes per minute, for at least 20 seconds before the front of the train occupies the crossing. The flashing feature may be activated automatically and shall be capable of manual activation and deactivation by the locomotive engineer.

(f) Auxiliary lights required by paragraph (d) of this section shall be illuminated not less than 20 seconds before the locomotive arrives at a public highway-rail grade crossing.

(g) For the safety of persons along the right of way, including railroad employees and contractors—

(1) Railroads may elect to operate auxiliary lights when the speed over the crossing is less than 20 miles per hour; and

(2) Railroads shall have the discretion to illuminate locomotive auxiliary lights in other circumstances in addition to approaching a public highway-rail grade crossing.

(h) When one required auxiliary light and the headlight of a locomotive remain operative after the train has departed its initial terminal, the locomotive may proceed as an equipped locomotive until reaching the next point at which repairs to the inoperative light can be made. If no required auxiliary light remains operative, the locomotive may be moved only if the requirements of § 229.9 are met.

Donald M. Itzkoff,

Deputy Federal Railroad Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018-AC79

Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; supplemental.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter the Service) is proposing to establish the 1995-96 late-season hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. The Service annually prescribes frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in late seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow State selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions.

DATES: The comment period for proposed late-season frameworks will end on September 7, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed to Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Comments received will be available for public inspection during normal business hours in room 634, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul R. Schmidt, Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358-1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations Schedule for 1995

On March 24, 1995, the Service published for public comment in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 15642) a proposal to amend 50 CFR part 20, with comment periods ending July 21 for early-season proposals and September 4 for late-season proposals. Due to some unforeseen and uncontrollable publishing delays in the proposed late-season regulations frameworks, the Service has extended the public comment period to September 7, 1995. On June 16, 1995, the Service published for public comment a second document (60 FR 31890) which provided supplemental proposals for early- and late-season migratory bird hunting regulations frameworks.

On June 22, 1995, a public hearing was held in Washington, DC, as announced in the March 24 and June 16 **Federal Registers** to review the status of migratory shore and upland game birds. Proposed hunting regulations were discussed for these species and for other early seasons.

On July 21, 1995, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 37754) a third document which dealt specifically with proposed early-season frameworks for the 1995-96 season.

On August 3, 1995, a public hearing was held in Washington, DC, as announced in the March 24, June 16, and July 21 **Federal Registers**, to review the status of waterfowl. Proposed hunting regulations were discussed for these late seasons. The Service later published a fourth document containing final frameworks for early seasons from which wildlife conservation agency officials from the States and Territories selected early-season hunting dates, hours, areas, and limits.

This document is the fifth in the series of proposed, supplemental, and final rulemaking documents for migratory bird hunting regulations and deals specifically with proposed frameworks for the late-season migratory bird hunting regulations. It will lead to final frameworks from which States may select season dates, hours, areas, and limits. All pertinent comments on the proposals received through August 3, 1995, have been considered in developing this document. In addition, new proposals for certain late-season regulations are provided for public comment. The comment period is specified above under **DATES**. Final regulatory frameworks for late-season migratory game bird hunting are scheduled for publication in the **Federal Register** on or about September 25, 1995.

Presentations at Public Hearing

A report on the status of waterfowl was presented. This report is briefly reviewed below as a matter of public information, and is a summary of information contained in the "Status of Waterfowl and Fall Flight Forecast" report.

Most goose and swan populations in North America remain numerically sound and the size of most fall flights will be similar to those of last year. Production of young in 1995 is expected to be above average for most populations. Generally, spring phenology was earlier than normal in the western Arctic and Ungava Peninsula, later than normal in the prairie pothole region, and near normal in other important nesting areas. Habitat

conditions for nesting geese were variable in southern Canada and the northern U.S. Flooding in the western U.S. likely reduced the productivity of several Canada goose populations. Recent declines in sizes of the Atlantic, Southern James Bay, and dusky Canada goose populations are of continuing concern.

The 1995 estimate of total ducks in the traditional survey area was 35.9 million, an increase of 10 percent from that in 1994 and 11 percent higher than the long-term average. Mallards increased 18 percent to 8.3 million, the highest estimate since 1972. Gadwalls, redheads, and canvasbacks also increased over 1994 estimates to record-high levels. The number of ponds in May was similar to that of last year, but was 38 percent above the long-term average. In eastern areas of Canada and the U.S., surveys of strata 51-56 were conducted for the sixth consecutive year. In this area, the number of total ducks was similar to that of last year, but was 22 percent below the 1990-94 average. Habitats in many eastern areas were drier than average. The preliminary fall-flight index for all ducks is about 80 million birds, compared to 71 million last year. The fall flight will include approximately 11.1 million mallards, an increase of 15 percent over that of 1994.

During the 1994-95 hunting season, there were increases in the number of hunters, their days afield, and in both duck and goose harvests compared to the previous year. However, the number of waterfowl hunters continues to remain below levels observed in the 1970's. The sport harvest of ducks continues to increase from the record low in 1988, but remains well below the historic average. Goose harvest has increased three-fold during 1961-94. The rate at which ducks are harvested did not appear to increase during the 1994-95 season, in spite of liberalizations in hunting regulations. Harvest-survey data suggest that the reproductive success of ducks in the midcontinent region increased last year, but recruitment may have been poorer in other areas. Most goose species experienced declines in recruitment in 1994 compared to the exceptionally good year of 1993.

Review of Comments Received at Public Hearing

Seven individuals presented statements at the August 3, 1995, public hearing. These comments are summarized below.

Mr. Lloyd Alexander, representing the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, supported the proposal to close the

Canada goose season throughout the Atlantic Flyway. He stated that existing data do not support a limited 30-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit in the New England States. He suggests that survival rates on birds migrating through the Maritime Provinces of Canada are actually lower than those breeding in northern Quebec and that better data are needed to delineate this population. He encouraged the Service to contact the Canadian Wildlife Service and request that the sport harvest on the Atlantic Population Canada Geese be suspended in Quebec and Ontario by emergency closure this year. Further, he asked the Service to work with representatives of the native communities to reduce subsistence taking in northern Quebec and ask the Canadian Wildlife Service to review the harvest and consider restrictions on Canada geese in the Maritime Provinces.

He commended the Service for extending the framework closing date on greater snow geese to March 10th, but asked the Service to consider the option of allowing states to split their seasons into 3 segments. He believed that the requested option is needed to allow more flexibility in helping farmers deal with crop depredation problems.

Mr. Bruce Barbour, representing the National Audubon Society, indicated that both the Eastern and Western Populations of tundra swans are stable and of no management concern. The National Audubon Society supports efforts to restore trumpeter swans throughout their former range, and believes that issues related to the incidental take of trumpeter swans during tundra swan seasons have been adequately addressed in this year's proposal. He reminded the Service of the concern for the Atlantic and Southern James Bay Populations of Canada geese and the dusky subspecies, and recommended that further restrictions should be sought for their recovery. Mr. Barbour then indicated concern for the extremely high populations of Mid-Continent Snow Geese that have resulted in severe damage to Arctic nesting areas. He reviewed this year's breeding duck population status and supported the Adaptive Harvest Management process used in selecting this year's liberal package and specified species restrictions. He indicated that increased hunting opportunity will occur on all species under the liberal option, and efforts should be initiated to cooperatively develop harvest approaches for these species. Finally, many programs are responsible for the recovery of the continent's duck resources; however, many of these

programs are under attack through budget-balancing and any reductions could jeopardize future status and the increases in hunting opportunity.

Mr. Richard Elden, representing the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, commended the Service for its efforts to improve the regulations-setting process. He stated that the process has markedly improved and he is optimistic about adaptive harvest management. He summarized the development of Canada goose management plans in the Mississippi Flyway and their role in improving the cooperative management of the various populations. He stated that, based on the status of redheads this year, liberalization of the daily bag limit for this species is warranted and biologically supported, and requested that the Service reconsider its proposal and increase the number of redheads in the daily bag limit from 1 to 2 birds in the Mississippi Flyway.

Mr. Mike Harris, representing the Maryland Guide Association commented that Canada geese have changed their movement patterns in recent years and no longer migrate north in the spring, as they once did. Rather, he believes they remain as resident birds and breed locally. He maintains that although these geese are in good numbers, early seasons on these birds should not be allowed, because it reduces the overall numbers of geese available during the regular season. He claims that it is difficult to stay in business and suggests that if the hunting season is closed on Canada geese, the guides and outfitters should receive some financial assistance from the Federal Government. He recommended that a 30-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit be offered until the changing patterns of resident geese could be reviewed.

Rollin W. Sparrowe, representing the Wildlife Management Institute, supported overall the Service's regulatory proposals. He commended the Service and State cooperators for their commitment toward implementing the Adaptive Harvest Management approach to duck hunting and to distance the process from political influence. He supported partial adoption of the Adaptive Harvest Management approach this year which recognized goals established in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. He was pleased that after years of concern about the status of ducks, more liberal seasons could be offered. He asked why the Service did not consider adding an additional redhead to the bag limit in the Mississippi and Central Flyways when populations seemed

appropriate and urged the Service to reexamine this aspect before frameworks were finalized. He expressed continued concern about the status of pintails. He commended the Service and the Atlantic Flyway Council for proposing the closure on Canada goose hunting in the Atlantic Flyway, urged the Service to request the Canadian Wildlife Service to take similar action in Canada, and initiate research to understand the problem. He complimented the Service and Flyway Councils in the regulatory process and their systematic use of data in developing specific recommendations. All parties were urged to keep explaining to their constituencies the Adaptive Harvest Management process.

Rollin W. Sparrowe, also representing The Trumpeter Swan Society, was supportive of the ongoing efforts to restore and redistribute the Rocky Mountain Population of trumpeter swans within the Tri-State Area. He spoke of the conflict between range expansion efforts and waterfowl hunting programs in the Pacific Flyway, including tundra swan seasons in Montana, Utah, and Nevada. However, The Trumpeter Swan Society was satisfied with the Service's proposal to allow significantly modified swan seasons in those three States, which should enhance the likelihood for successful range expansion by trumpeter swans. He thanked the Pacific Flyway Council, the States of Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon, and the Service for successfully developing a compromise that meets everyone's needs. He said his organization was small, with limited resources, but wants to assist all parties in the responsible effort to manage swans.

Scott Sutherland, representing Ducks Unlimited, expressed support for Adaptive Harvest Management and the regulatory matrix proposed by the Service this year which resulted in the liberal package recommendation. Under full implementation of AHM, however, Mr. Sutherland expressed a desire to modify the framework packages allowing a consideration of longer seasons with smaller daily bag limits. Mr. Sutherland also expressed his continued support for the Conservation Reserve Program and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Mr. George Vandel, representing the Central Flyway Council, indicated that as Chairman of the Central Flyway Council, he was pleased with this year's process for establishing the proposed frameworks for late seasons. The Central Flyway supported the proposed use of flexible framework opening and closing dates for duck seasons in the Central

Flyway, the liberal regulatory package, and the Adaptive Harvest Management process that was used in this interim year prior to its full implementation. He thanked the Service for the assistance with communication efforts on behalf of Adaptive Harvest Management, but pointed out that continuing efforts will be necessary for successful implementation in future years. He then strongly suggested that the Service work closely with the Flyway Councils in developing regulatory packages for next year. He believed that this cooperation will be especially crucial for further implementation by facilitating ownership and support for full implementation of Adaptive Harvest Management in 1996. Mr. Vandel summarized the history of goose population status in the Central Flyway and noted the great success of cooperative management practices that has resulted in record high flyway harvest of geese in 1994. However, he pointed out that the high population levels of light geese were of great concern. He recommended that the Service work through an international effort to identify specific actions needed to reduce these high populations and prevent further deterioration of important nesting habitats. He pointed out the importance of maintaining strong migratory bird survey efforts, as these tools are vital to the development of our management approaches. Finally, he indicated that the recovery of duck populations was clear evidence that the Conservation Reserve Program and other habitat programs are working.

Flyway Council Recommendations and Written Comments

The preliminary proposed rulemaking which appeared in the March 24 **Federal Register**, opened the public-comment period for late-season migratory game bird hunting regulations. As of August 3, 1995, the Service had received 27 comments; 25 of these specifically addressed late-season issues. The Service also received recommendations from all four Flyway Councils. Late-season comments are summarized and discussed in the order used in the March 24 **Federal Register**. Only the numbered items pertaining to late seasons for which written comments were received are included.

General

Written Comments: An individual from Wisconsin expressed support for the existing shooting hours of one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. He also opposed the requirement for steel shot

and urged the development of non-toxic alternatives.

1. Ducks

The categories used to discuss issues related to duck harvest management are as follows: (A) General Harvest Strategy, (B) Framework Dates, (C) Season Length, (D) Closed Seasons, (E) Bag Limits, (F) Zones and Split Seasons, and (G) Special Seasons/Species Management. Only those categories containing substantial recommendations are included below.

A. General Harvest Strategy

Written Comments: The Pennsylvania Game Commission expressed support for the proposed regulations strategies as an interim approach for 1995 only. They continue to be concerned, however, that the process relies on mid-continent mallards as a basis for regulatory changes in the Atlantic Flyway.

Likewise, the Delaware Department of Fish and Wildlife generally endorsed the concept of regulatory packages but remained concerned that the process was linked to the mid-continent populations of mallards and prairie wetland conditions.

The Illinois Department of Conservation also expressed support for the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) process but were concerned that there had been insufficient time to properly educate the public about AHM. They also felt that the set of regulatory options offered may be too limited, particularly with regard to bag limits.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks expressed support for AHM and the interim steps proposed for the 1995-95 hunting season. Additionally, they supported the idea of expanding the status of duck breeding populations and habitat used in AHM from mallards and prairie Canada ponds to include other duck species and ponds in the Dakotas and Montana.

The California Waterfowl Association commended the Service for moving towards AHM. They did express concern, however, for the potential of a season closure in California, the AHM terminology regarding regulations packages, and the use of only mid-continent mallards and prairie habitat conditions in the AHM process.

Individuals from Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee expressed support for the AHM process and the Service's proposed regulatory packages. However, one individual from Arkansas stated that future AHM criteria should be adjusted to be more conservative.

B. Framework Dates

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended framework dates of October 1 to January 20.

The Upper-Region and Lower-Region Regulations Committees of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended framework dates of September 28 and January 23.

The Central and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended framework dates of the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) to the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 21).

Written Comments: The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks opposed a fixed framework opening date.

An individual from Mississippi expressed support for a January 31 framework closing date.

Service Response: Traditional framework opening and closing dates have been oriented to the period October 1 - January 20, either as fixed calendar dates or "floating" dates, using as a guideline the Saturday nearest October 1 and the Sunday nearest January 20 to select opening and closing dates annually. The fixed framework dates of September 28 - January 23 recommended for the Mississippi Flyway this year would provide consistently wider frameworks over the years than the fixed October 1 - January 20 dates recommended for the Atlantic Flyway and the floating dates recommended for the Central and Pacific Flyways. To maintain consistency among flyways in the procedures for selecting framework dates, and because floating dates have been recommended annually for the Mississippi Flyway in recent years, the Service proposes to return to the use of floating framework dates for the Mississippi Flyway as well as the Central and Pacific Flyways.

C. Season Length and Bag Limits

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended a 50-day season with a 5-bird daily bag limit, including no more than 1 black duck, 1 hen mallard, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and no harlequin ducks. Further, the Council recommended that States maintain a 40-percent reduction in the harvest of black ducks from the 1977-81 base period.

The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended a 50-day season with a 5-bird daily bag limit, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a hen), 1 black duck,

1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 wood ducks, and 2 redheads.

The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended a 50-day season with a 5-bird daily bag limit, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a hen), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 wood ducks, and 2 redheads.

The Central Flyway Council recommended a 60-day season (83 days in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit with the last 23 days of the season taken no earlier than the Saturday closest to December 10) with a 5-bird daily bag limit, including no more than 1 hen mallard, 1 mottled duck, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 wood ducks, and 1 redhead.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended a 93-day season (100 days in the Columbia Basin Management Unit) with a 6-bird daily bag limit, including no more than 1 hen mallard, 2 pintails, 1 canvasback, and 2 redheads.

Written Comments: Individuals from Tennessee, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Iowa expressed support for the proposed increase in season length but were against the proposed bag limit increase. An individual from Wisconsin expressed support for a 70-day season. Another individual from Wisconsin supported a 50-day season and a 4-bird daily bag limit, while an individual from Tennessee supported a 40-day season and a 4-bird daily bag limit.

An individual from Michigan was against any increase in the daily bag limit. An individual from Louisiana was opposed to a 50-day season and 5-bird daily bag limit and an individual from Iowa was opposed to a 40- to 50-day season with the proposed 5-bird daily bag limit. One individual from Kentucky expressed general support for low limits.

F. Zones and Split Seasons

Written Comments: The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission urged the Service to modify its existing zoning policy related to special management unit limitations.

G. Special Seasons/Species Management

i. Canvasback

Written Comments: An individual from Wisconsin supported the opening of canvasback season.

Service Response: In 1994, the Service adopted a strategy to manage canvasback harvests that considered population status, habitat conditions,

and potential harvest. In brief, the strategy stated that if population status and expected production were sufficient to permit a harvest of 1 canvasback per day nationwide for the entire length of the regular duck season, the season on canvasbacks should be opened. Otherwise, the season on canvasbacks should be closed nationwide. This spring, results from the May Breeding Waterfowl and Habitat Survey indicate that habitat conditions and the size of the canvasback population are sufficient to open the season on canvasbacks. Therefore, the Service proposes a bag limit of 1 canvasback per day during the 1995-96 regular duck season.

ii. Redheads

Council Recommendations: The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended a bag limit of 2 redheads per day, an increase from the bag limit of 1 redhead per day proposed by the Service in March 1995.

Written Comments: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department also requested a bag limit of 2 redheads per day in the Central Flyway.

Service Response: The Service prefers that proposals for changes in species- or population-specific regulations be based on more long-term strategies rather than in response to short-term changes in population estimates. The Service believes that such strategies should include the following: (1) an assessment of how the population responds to harvest and environmental conditions, (2) criteria that prescribe when regulations should be changed (i.e., become more restrictive or more liberal), (3) the range of regulatory options that will be considered (e.g., ranges of season lengths and bag limits), and (4) considerations for determining the efficacy of the harvest strategy. The proposals to permit a bag limit of 2 redheads per day were received in late July, and were based primarily in response to the estimated size of the redhead population during spring 1995. The Service believes that, due to the timing of the request, analyses of biological data sufficient to address the four criteria above have not been conducted. Further, additional harvest opportunities on redheads in all Flyways will result from increases in season lengths proposed for this year. The Service recommends that MBMO and the Flyways cooperatively develop protocol and strategies which address how to handle species- and population-specific proposals within the context of the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) Initiative, and believes the AHM Working Group is the appropriate forum for this endeavor.

iii. Other Species

Written Comments: An individual from Kentucky expressed support for keeping the black duck daily bag limit at 1 bird.

4. Canada Geese

B. Regular Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the regular season on the Atlantic Flyway Population of Canada geese be suspended; except for West Virginia, the Southern James Bay Population harvest areas of Pennsylvania, and a newly created New England Zone [Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont (excluding the Lake Champlain Zone), Massachusetts (excluding the Western Zone), and Connecticut (excluding Litchford and Hartford Counties)]. In the New England Zone, the Council recommended a 30-day season, with a framework of October 1 through November 30, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

The Atlantic Flyway Council also recommended that, in light of the decision to suspend the regular season on migrant Canada geese flyway-wide, the Service should immediately begin a review of framework dates for resident Canada goose seasons to determine whether dates could be expanded to increase harvests.

The Upper-Region and Lower-Region Regulations Committees of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended several changes in Canada goose quotas, season lengths, etc., based on population status and population management plans and programs.

The Central Flyway Council recommended several changes for west-tier dark geese: (1) an increase in the aggregate bag limit from 3 to 4 birds, (2) an extension of the closing framework from January 31 to the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 18) for the Western Goose Zone of Texas, and (3) an increase in the dark goose bag limit from 2 to 4 birds in Sheridan County, Montana.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended that the bag limit for Canada geese in central Montana, western Wyoming, and southeastern Idaho be increased from 3 to 4 birds. The Council also recommended that the daily bag limit for cackling Canada geese in the quota zones of western Oregon and western Washington be increased from 1 to 2 birds.

Written Comments: An individual from the Eastern Shore of Maryland expressed support for the closure of the regular Canada goose season for as long

as it takes to rebuild the population to the levels of the mid-1980s.

An individual from Washington urged additional protection for the dusky Canada goose population wintering along the Chehalis River.

Service Response: Based on the continuing decline in the number of breeding pairs of Atlantic Flyway Population Canada geese, the Service endorses the Atlantic Flyway Council's recommendation to suspend the 1995-96 regular Canada goose season in the Chesapeake and Mid-Atlantic regions of the Atlantic Flyway, with exceptions for West Virginia and a portion of northwest Pennsylvania. The substantial drop in numbers of migratory Atlantic Flyway Canada geese (27 percent from 1994 and 75 percent from 1988) has continued despite harvest restrictions imposed in 1992. However, the Service does not support the recommendation to provide a 30-day season, between October 1 and November 30, with a 1-bird daily bag limit, for States in the New England Zone. The Atlantic Flyway Population is currently managed under an approved Flyway Management Plan as a single Atlantic population unit, along with those birds breeding in the Ungava Bay and east-coastal Hudson Bay areas of Quebec. The Service will continue to manage geese on a population basis, guided by cooperatively developed management plans.

The information available to objectively separate these populations into two distinct management units, as the basis for the New England Zone, is currently very limited. Survival rates, based on limited bandings, are actually lower for the Maritimes component of the population than for geese in the area where the Flyway Council recommended a complete season closure. Also, productivity information, which would help assess the differences in survival rates, is very limited. In addition, only 2 years of population survey data are available for Canada geese breeding in the Maritimes, and these are too inconclusive to indicate whether numbers of breeding pairs are stable or declining. The Service does not oppose the delineation of a Maritime population of Atlantic Flyway Canada geese, if warranted, but believes that more information is needed before beginning a harvest strategy different from that for the population breeding in Quebec. Therefore, the Service encourages the Flyway Council to work cooperatively with the Canadian Provinces during the coming year to gather more data, review the key population parameters involving the Maritime component of Canada geese,

update its Canada goose management plan, and make recommendations regarding an appropriate harvest strategy for this group of geese.

The Service concurs with the Central Flyway Council's recommended increase in the dark goose aggregate bag limit from 3 to 4 for the west-tier States. However, while this increase is justified for Canada geese, the Service believes that it is not appropriate for white-fronted geese. In the Western Goose Zone in Texas, biologists have identified a large group of wintering white-fronted geese believed to be part of the western segment of the Mid-Continent Greater White-fronted Goose Population. For this reason, the Service believes that the bag limit for whitefronts should be similar to those of other States in the range of this segment in the east-tier of the Central Flyway. Therefore, the Service proposes a 5-bird dark goose bag limit, including no more than 1 white-fronted goose and 4 Canada geese in the west-tier States of the Central Flyway.

C. Special Late Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended a new experimental late season for resident Canada geese in New York, and additional days and area modifications for existing seasons in New Jersey, South Carolina, and Georgia. In addition, because of the high harvest of migrant Canada geese, the Council recommended suspension of the special late season in the Coastal Zone of Massachusetts.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended revision of the Canada goose season framework in Cowlitz County south of the Kalama River and Clark County, Washington, to allow a special late season. The season would be subject to the following conditions: (1) season dates would be February 5 through March 10, (2) bag limits and checking requirements would be the same as the regular season, except that the season on cackling Canada geese would be closed, (3) the season would end upon the attainment of a quota of 5 dusky Canada geese (this quota would be taken from the total of 90 allocated under the regular season), and (4) fields selected for the season would not have more than 10 percent dusks in the flocks using the fields. Additionally, the season would be contingent upon an operational hazing program in place in the hunt area, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Damage Control (ADC) in Washington. ADC would identify fields receiving depredation and contact hunters from a list supplied by the Washington Department of Fish and Game (WDFG).

WDFG would evaluate season effectiveness and estimate harvest, subspecies composition, hunter participation, and report band recoveries.

5. White-fronted Geese

Council Recommendations: The Central Flyway Council recommendations regarding dark geese involve white-fronted geese. See item 4. **Canada Geese.** Specifically pertaining to white-fronted geese, the Council recommended an increase in the season length in the Eastern Goose Zone of Texas from 72 to 86 days.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended several changes to white-fronted goose frameworks. The Council recommended that special bag-limit restrictions on whitefronts be removed by placing them within the overall dark goose limits except in the primary whitefront harvest areas in Alaska; the Counties of Lake, Klamath, and Harney in Oregon; and in the Northeastern and Balance-of-State Zones in California. In Oregon, the Council recommended that all whitefront seasons be concurrent with dark goose seasons. In California, the Council recommended that the whitefront season be extended by two weeks in the Sacramento Valley special goose closure portion of the Balance-of-State Zone.

7. Snow and Ross's Geese

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended extending the framework closing date for snow geese to March 10.

The Upper-Region and Lower-Region Regulations Committees of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the framework closing date for light geese be extended to March 10 and the daily bag limit be increased to 10 birds.

The Central Flyway Council recommended that the framework closing date for east- and west-tier light geese be extended to March 10.

Written Comments: The Pennsylvania Game Commission recommended that the State of Pennsylvania be included in those wintering States offered an extended framework closing date of March 10. They stated that increasing the framework would allow farmers to deal with depredation problems and provide additional hunting opportunity to Pennsylvania hunters.

Service Response: The Service concurs with the requests to extend the framework closing date for light geese to March 10 in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, but believes that this extension should be limited to the

primary wintering range of light geese in each flyway. The Service emphasizes that it believes that sport hunting opportunities should be limited to the fall migration and winter periods. The Service proposes to use Interstate Highway 80 as the northern boundary of this extension in the Central and Mississippi Flyways and that it be limited to the States of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia in the Atlantic Flyway. In the coming year, the Service requests that States identify important staging areas for snow geese where they are commingled with other species to the extent that sport-hunting activities may potentially cause significant disturbance to other species. A major staging area has been identified in the Rainwater-Basin Area of Nebraska, and the Service proposes not to extend the framework date in the following counties or portions of counties that are south of the identified I-80 boundary: Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harland, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York.

8. Swans

Council Recommendations: The Pacific Flyway Council reiterated its recommendations for a swan season in portions of Montana, Utah, and Nevada (see the June 16, 1995, **Federal Register**), except that the period should be 3 years instead of 5 years and the trumpeter swan quota allocation was made. Features of the Council's recommendation include: (1) changing ending framework dates in all three States from the Sunday closest to January 20 to December 1 for Montana, Sunday closest to December 15 for Utah, and the Sunday following January 1 for Nevada; (2) changing the hunt area in Montana by deleting those portions of Pondera and Teton Counties west of U.S. Highways 287-89 but including all of Chouteau County; (3) reduce Utah's statewide season to just the Great Salt Lake Basin, defined at those portions of Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Tooele counties lying south of State Highway 30 and I-80/84, west of I-15, and north of I-80. Number of swan permits would remain unchanged for Montana (500) and Nevada (650) but would be increased from 2,500 to 2,750 for Utah. A trumpeter swan quota of 20 birds would be allocated, with 15 to Utah and 5 to Nevada, with the season being closed either by the framework date or attainment of the quota, whichever occurs first. All hunters in Utah and Nevada would be required to

participate in a mandatory parts check at designated sites within 72 hours of harvest for species determination; and hunters in Montana would continue to participate in a voluntary bill-measurement card program. The States would continue to monitor harvest composition, swan population during the hunt, and collect related harvest data. This information would be reported to the Service in a preliminary report by March 31 and a final report by June 30, 1996.

The Council offered the proposed frameworks in an attempt to forward trumpeter swan range expansion efforts throughout the western states and to cooperate with the Trumpeter Swan Society in their efforts with this species. The quota on trumpeter swans is believed to be biologically insignificant and estimated to be less than 1 percent of the population. The combined sport and subsistence harvest of Western Population tundra swans has averaged about 10 percent of the midwinter index during the past 10 years without negative impact to population status. In Utah, 26 percent of the swan harvest has occurred after December 1 and 15 percent after December 15, with December harvests as high as 57 percent in 1993. The Council believed that until December hunts can be demonstrated to threaten trumpeter swans they should be allowed to continue. Between 1962-94, upwards of 99 percent of the Utah harvest occurred in the Great Salt Lake area; therefore, closing of other areas will mainly remove local opportunity but not have a great effect on the overall harvest. The 250 (10 percent) increase in permits for Utah is requested to replace opportunity and harvest lost through area and season closures. Nevada biologists have no data suggesting that State's season is having any impact on trumpeter migration between the Tristate area and wintering areas in California. The Council offered these recommendations in an effort to integrate Western Population tundra swan and Rocky Mountain Population trumpeter swan management programs and to move ahead and evaluate various aspects of both programs.

Written Comments: Ruth E. Shea, a wildlife biologist associated with research and management of Rocky Mountain Population trumpeter swans since 1976, by letter of July 29, 1995, described a proposal by her and Dr. Rod Drewien which was the foundation of recommendations from The Trumpeter Swan Society and the Pacific Flyway Council included herein. The Shea-Drewien proposal incorporated two primary strategies: (1) increasing protection of migrant trumpeter swans

by tightly focusing tundra swan hunts in time and place; and (2) authorizing a small quota of trumpeter swans within each tundra swan hunt area in order to eliminate the liability of the otherwise legitimate tundra swan hunters who accidentally shoot a trumpeter swan, with mandatory check of birds to adequately implement a quota system. She attributes the vulnerable status of this population to a diminished tendency to migrate and to a winter distribution that is largely in overcrowded, less favorable sites. She believes building a migration southward from eastern Idaho, to the fall staging area of the Bear River Delta in Utah would be an important step in restoring a secure winter distribution. To enhance survival of those few trumpeters that currently migrate into Utah and Nevada, Shea and Drewein proposed focusing tundra swan hunting only in areas and at times where tundra swans are abundant and trumpeters are less likely to be present or have access to suitable security areas. She deemed an ending date of "plus or minus" December 1, in Utah to be the single most important feature of their proposal. Rationale for using this date included: (1) in most years security areas on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge freeze around Thanksgiving, potentially forcing swans to use non-secure habitats; and (2) Service and Pacific Flyway efforts to assist in winter distribution includes hazing swans from overcrowded areas, as early as practical in November, which when coupled with shrinking habitat with the onset of winter has potential for pushing swans into the Great Salt Lake Basin by late November. She said that a December 1 closure would still give Utah swan hunters about 45 days of opportunity and would provide future opportunity to translocated trumpeters from Idaho to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge vicinity during December. She believes trumpeter swan restoration efforts have been stymied by real or perceived conflicts with the swan hunt, but believes their recommended approach would meet the very different management needs for two species of swans.

Laurence N. Gillete, President of The Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS), in a letter of July 31, 1995, again urged the Service to adopt a closing date of December 1 or the first Sunday in December, if there is a tradition of ending seasons on a Sunday, for the tundra swan hunting season in Utah to provide additional protection for migrating Rocky Mountain Population trumpeter swans. With the exception of the closing date in Utah, TTSS is in

agreement with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendations as reported in the Federal Register of June 16, 1995. Because these trumpeter swans winter in marginal habitat in the Tristate region of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and have a poor tradition for migrating elsewhere, they will suffer a die-off in a severe winter. He believes a rapid redistribution to better winter habitat is critical to the population's survival. TTSS had previously endorsed a 5-year experimental plan proposed by Drewien and Shea [see comments from TTSS and Shea elsewhere in this document]. Of the numerous recommended changes, the most critical feature of the plan was modification of hunting seasons in Utah to increase survival of migrating swans. The Great Salt Lake Basin is in the most likely migration path for trumpeters from the Tristate area. The December 1 date is favored because: (1) it coincides with the average date for freezeup of many lakes in the Tristate area which could force trumpeters south, (2) it is about the time that many wetlands within in Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge which could increase the vulnerability of Trumpeters that have migrated to the refuge, and (3) it anticipates increased trumpeter migrations and not past accidental shootings. TTSS does not object to a quota system that would allow a take of trumpeter swans if other conditions of their proposal are met, including modification of seasons and boundaries for swan hunting and of management on the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. The quota system is not intended to protect trumpeters but to protect hunters from liability if they accidentally shoot a trumpeter. He regrets the potential loss of hunting opportunity that the December 1 closing date would have on tundra swan hunters but believes it may be the only way to provided adequate protection to migrating trumpeters.

The Humane Society of the United States (Humane Society) by letter of July 21, 1995, requests that the Service close all swan hunting seasons and contends that tundra swan hunting impedes, if not prevents, winter range expansion and recovery of trumpeter swans. The Humane Society says the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation for increased permits in Utah and a quota on trumpeter swans in exchange for season modifications should be denied.

Service Response: The Service commends both the Pacific Flyway Council and The Trumpeter Swan Society for seeking ways to enhance trumpeter swan range expansion while retaining tundra swan hunting. The recommendations from both the Council

and TTSS were obviously not made easily. For persons and groups solely interested in either restoration or hunting but not both, those recommendations will be perceived only as without benefit.

Both sets of recommendations were similar, with the exception of the contentious closing date in Utah. The Council recommends a closing date for Utah that would be the Sunday closest to December 15, which would range between December 12 and 18. TTSS recommends a closing date of December 1, but believes there could be latitude to accommodate Sunday closing as is traditional in most Western states.

The Service supports the basic recommendations from both the Council and the TTSS; however, considering the significance of the general swan season, the Service will propose a season ending date of the first Sunday in December. This would allow the ending date to range between December 1 and 7, with the season ending on December 3 this year and, if changes are not deemed essential, December 1 in 1996, etc.

Further, the Service believes it is important to annually review all information and potentially modify seasons in time and place should circumstances warrant. While TTSS believes quotas on trumpeter swans are not as important to protect the species, as are closing dates and other factors, the Service believes quotas will provide additional protection to trumpeter swans until the experimental period can be fully evaluated. Further, we propose that the overall evaluation be made after a 5-year period, subject to annual reporting and review.

The Service insists upon assurance from Utah and Nevada that birds will be physically examined by biologists and that maximum compliance with reporting be sought using whatever means is appropriate for that particular State. We do not believe reporting must be done within 72 hours, but it seems reasonable that it could be accomplished within 3 working days. Timely classification of swans is important if the trumpeter quota is to be used effectively. The need or lack of need for Montana to have a season without a quota or to use a different method of reporting harvest will be reviewed annually; and continued departure from the requirement in Utah and Nevada will likely be contingent upon the continued healthy status of that segment of the trumpeter swan population that has had the potential for being affected by the Montana season, even without the conservative changes proposed herein.

Public Comment Invited

Based on the results of migratory game bird studies now in progress, and having due consideration for any data or views submitted by interested parties, the possible amendments resulting from this supplemental rulemaking will specify open seasons, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits for designated migratory game birds in the United States.

The Service intends that adopted final rules be as responsive as possible to all concerned interests, and therefore desires to obtain for consideration the comments and suggestions of the public, other concerned governmental agencies, and private interests on these proposals. Such comments, and any additional information received, may lead to final regulations that differ from these proposals.

Special circumstances are involved in the establishment of these regulations which limit the amount of time that the Service can allow for public comment. Specifically, two considerations compress the time in which the rulemaking process must operate: (1) the need to establish final rules at a point early enough in the summer to allow affected State agencies to appropriately adjust their licensing and regulatory mechanisms; and (2) the unavailability of specific, reliable data on this year's status before mid-June for migratory shore and upland game birds and some waterfowl, and before late July for most waterfowl. Therefore, the Service believes that to allow comment periods past the dates specified is contrary to the public interest.

Comment Procedure

It is the policy of the Department of the Interior, whenever practical, to afford the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Accordingly, interested persons may participate by submitting written comments to the Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Comments received will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Service's office in room 634, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

All relevant comments received during the comment period will be considered. The Service will attempt to acknowledge comments received, but a substantive response to individual comments may not be provided.

NEPA Consideration

NEPA considerations are covered by the programmatic document, "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (FSES 88-14)," filed with EPA on June 9, 1988. Notice of Availability was published in the **Federal Register** on June 16, 1988 (53 FR 22582). The Service's Record of Decision was published on August 18, 1988 (53 FR 31341). However, this programmatic document does not prescribe year-specific regulations; those are developed annually. The annual regulations and options are being considered in the Environmental Assessment, "Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for 1995," which is available upon request. In addition, the Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment, "Proposal to Establish General Swan Hunting Seasons in Parts of the Pacific Flyway" to reconcile conflicting strategies for managing two swan species in the Pacific Flyway by establishing for a trial period a general swan season in portions of Montana, Nevada, and Utah. The Environmental Assessment is available upon request.

Endangered Species Act Consideration

The Division of Endangered Species is completing a biological opinion on the proposed action. As in the past, hunting regulations this year will be designed, among other things, to remove or alleviate chances of conflict between seasons for migratory game birds and the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species. The Service's biological opinions resulting from consultations under Section 7 are considered public documents and are available for inspection in the Division of Endangered Species (room 432) and the Office of Migratory Bird Management (room 634), Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

Regulatory Flexibility Act; Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 and the Paperwork Reduction Act

In the **Federal Register** dated March 24, 1995 (60 FR 15642), the Service reported measures it had undertaken to comply with requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Executive Order. These included preparing an Analysis of Regulatory Effects and an updated Final Regulatory Impact Analysis (FRIA), and publication of a summary of the latter. Although a FRIA is no longer required, the economic analysis contained in the FRIA was reviewed and the Service

determined that it met the requirements of E.O. 12866. In addition, the Service prepared a Small Entity Flexibility Analysis, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq), which further document the significant beneficial economic effect on a substantial number of small entities. This rule was not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under E.O. 12866.

These proposed regulations contain no information collections subject to OMB review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). However, the Service does utilize information acquired through other various information collections in the formulation of migratory game bird hunting regulations. These information collection requirements have been approved by OMB and assigned clearance numbers 1018-0005, 1018-0006, 1018-0008, 1018-0009, 1018-0010, 1018-0015, 1018-0019, and 1018-0023.

Authorship

The primary author is Ron W. Kokel, Office of Migratory Bird Management.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

Exports, Hunting, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

PART 20—[AMENDED]

The authority citation for Part 20 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 703-711, 16 U.S.C. 712, and 16 U.S.C. 742 a-j.

Dated: August 17, 1995

Robert P. Davison

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 1995-96 Late Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and delegated authorities, the Department has approved frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting waterfowl and coots between the dates of September 1, 1995, and March 10, 1996.

General

Dates: All outside dates noted below are inclusive.

Shooting and Hawking (taking by falconry) Hours: Unless otherwise specified, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

Possession Limits: Unless otherwise specified, possession limits are twice the daily bag limit.

Definitions: For the purpose of hunting regulations listed below, the collective terms "dark" and "light" geese include the following species:

Dark geese - Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant, and all other goose species except light geese.

Light geese - snow (including blue) geese and Ross' geese.

Area, Zone, and Unit Descriptions: Geographic descriptions that are new or modified from previous years are contained in a later portion of this document.

Area-Specific Provisions: Frameworks for open seasons, season lengths, bag and possession limits, and other special provisions are listed below by flyway.

Atlantic Flyway

The Atlantic Flyway includes Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between October 1 and January 20.

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 50 days and daily bag limit of 5 ducks, including no more than 1 hen mallard, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and 1 canvasback.

Closures: The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

Sea Ducks: In all areas outside of special sea duck areas, sea ducks are included in the regular duck daily bag and possession limits. However, during the regular duck season within the special sea duck areas, the sea duck daily bag and possession limits may be in addition to the regular duck daily bag and possession limits.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

Lake Champlain Zone, New York: The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours shall be the same as those selected for the Lake Champlain Zone of Vermont.

Zoning and Split Seasons: Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Virginia may split their seasons into three segments; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia may select hunting seasons by zones and may split their seasons into two segments in each zone; while Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina

may split their Statewide seasons into two segments.

Canada Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: The Canada goose season is suspended throughout the Flyway except as noted below. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

Connecticut: A special experimental season may be held in the South Zone between January 15 and February 15, with 5 geese per day.

Georgia: In specific areas, a 15-day experimental season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a limit of 5 Canada geese per day.

Massachusetts: In the Central Zone, a 16-day season for resident Canada geese may be held during January 21 to February 5, with 5 geese per day.

New Jersey: An experimental special season may be held in designated areas of Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast New Jersey from January 27 to February 10, with 5 geese per day.

New York: A special experimental season may be held between January 21 and February 15, with 5 geese daily in Westchester County and portions of Nassau, Putnam, and Rockland Counties.

Pennsylvania: Erie, Mercer, and Butler Counties - 70 days between October 1 and January 31, with 1 goose per day through October 15; 2 geese per day thereafter; 1 goose per day for the first 8 days after the opening.

Crawford County - 35 days between October 1 and January 20; with 1 goose per day.

An experimental season may be held in the Susquehanna/Juniata Zones from January 20 to February 5 with 5 geese per day.

South Carolina: A 12-day special season may be held in the Central Piedmont, Western Piedmont, and Mountain Hunt Units during November 15 to February 15, with a daily bag limit of 5 Canada geese per day.

West Virginia: 70 days between October 1 and January 20, with 3 geese per day.

Light Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and February 10, with 5 geese per day, except closing dates may be extended to March 10 in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Brant

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 50-day season between October 1 and January 20, with 2 brant per day.

Mississippi Flyway

The Mississippi Flyway includes Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 21).

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 50 days with a daily bag limit of 5 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a female), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 2 wood ducks, 1 canvasback, and 1 redhead.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

Zoning and Split Seasons: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin may select hunting seasons by zones.

In Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, the season may be split into two segments in each zone.

In Minnesota and Mississippi, the season may be split into two segments.

In Arkansas, the season may be split into three segments.

Pymatuning Reservoir Area, Ohio: The seasons, limits, and shooting hours shall be the same as those selected in the adjacent portion of Pennsylvania (Northwest Zone).

Geese

Split Seasons: Seasons for geese may be split into two segments.

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select seasons for geese not to exceed 70 days for dark geese between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and January 31, and 107 days for light geese between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and February 14, except in those States and portions of States south of Interstate Highway 80 in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, where seasons for light geese may extend until March 10. The daily bag limit is 10 geese, to include no more than 3 Canada geese, 2 white-fronted geese, and 2 brant. Specific regulations for Canada

geese and exceptions to the above general provisions are shown below by State.

Alabama: In the SJBP Goose Zone, the season for Canada geese may not exceed 35 days. Elsewhere, the season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days in the respective duck-hunting zones. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Arkansas: The season for Canada geese may extend for 23 days in the East Zone and 14 days in the West Zone. In both zones, the season may extend to February 15. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese. In the remainder of the State, the season for Canada geese is closed.

Illinois: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 172,600 birds. Limits are 3 Canada geese daily and 10 in possession.

(a) North Goose Zone - The season for Canada geese will close after 93 days or when 22,014 birds have been harvested in the Northern Illinois Quota Zone, whichever occurs first.

(b) Central Goose Zone - The season for Canada geese will close after 93 days or when 35,168 birds have been harvested in the Central Illinois Quota Zone, whichever occurs first.

(c) South Goose Zone - The harvest of Canada geese in the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones will be limited to 62,691 and 17,830 birds, respectively. The season for Canada geese in each zone will close after 89 days or when the harvest limit has been reached, whichever occurs first. In the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, if any of the following conditions exist after December 20, the State, after consultation with the Service, will close the season by emergency order with 48 hours notice:

1. 10 consecutive days of snow cover, 3 inches or more in depth.

2. 10 consecutive days of daily high temperatures less than 20 degrees F.

3. Average body weights of adult female geese less than 3,200 grams as measured from a weekly sample of a minimum of 50 geese.

4. Starvation or a major disease outbreak resulting in observed mortality exceeding 5,000 birds in 10 days, or a total mortality exceeding 10,000 birds.

In the remainder of the South Goose Zone, the season may extend for 89 days or until both the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones have been closed, whichever occurs first.

Indiana: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 98,000 birds.

(a) Posey County - The season for Canada geese will close after 65 days or when 7,200 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(b) Remainder of the State - The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days in the

respective duck-hunting zones, except in the SJBP Zone, where the season may not exceed 35 days. The daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese, except in the SJBP Zone, where the daily bag limit is 2.

Iowa: The season may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Kentucky:

(a) Western Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 65 days (80 days in Fulton County), and the harvest will be limited to 34,500 birds. Of the 34,500-bird quota, 22,425 birds will be allocated to the Ballard Reporting Area and 6,555 birds will be allocated to the Henderson/Union Reporting Area. If the quota in either reporting area is reached prior to completion of the 65-day season, the season in that reporting area will be closed. If this occurs, the season in those counties and portions of counties outside of, but associated with, the respective subzone (listed in State regulations) may continue for an additional 7 days, not to exceed a total of 65 days (80 days in Fulton County). The season in Fulton County may extend to February 15. The daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

(b) Pennyroyal/Coalfield Zone - The season may extend for 35 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) Remainder of the State - The season may extend for 50 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Louisiana: The season for Canada geese may extend for 9 days. During the season, the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, no more than 1 of which may be a Canada goose. Hunters participating in the Canada goose season must possess a special permit issued by the State.

Michigan: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 99,500 birds.

(a) North Zone - The framework opening date for all geese is September 23 and the season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(b) Middle Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) South Zone

(1) Allegan County GMU - The season for Canada geese will close after 51 days or when 2,500 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(2) Muskegon Wastewater GMU - The season for Canada geese will close after 54 days or when 700 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(3) Saginaw County GMU - The season for Canada geese will close after

51 days or when 2,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(4) Tuscola/Huron GMU - The season for Canada geese will close after 51 days or when 750 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(5) Remainder of South Zone -

(i) East of U.S. Highway 27/127 - The season for Canada geese may extend for 30 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(ii) West of U.S. Highway 27/127 - The Season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose during the first 30 days, and 2 Canada geese during the remaining 10 days, which may begin no earlier than November 23.

(d) Southern Michigan GMU - An experimental special Canada goose season may be held between January 6 and February 4. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Minnesota:

(a) West Zone

(1) West Central Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 30 days. In the Lac Qui Parle Zone, the season will close after 30 days or when 16,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. Throughout the West Central Zone, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(2) Remainder of West Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(b) Northwest Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(c) Southeast Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days, except in the Twin Cities Metro Zone and Olmsted County, where the season may not exceed 80 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(d) Remainder of the State - The season for Canada geese may extend for 50 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(e) Fergus Falls/Alexandria Zone - An experimental special Canada goose season of up to 10 days may be held in December. During the special season, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Mississippi: The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

Missouri:

(a) Swan Lake Zone - The season for Canada geese will close after 40 days or when 5,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(b) Schell-Osage Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) Central Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

An experimental special season of up to

10 consecutive days prior to October 15 may be selected in addition to the regular season. During the special season, the daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

(d) Remainder of the State - The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days in the respective duck-hunting zones. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Ohio: The season may extend for 70 days in the respective duck-hunting zones, with a daily bag limit of 2 Canada geese, except in the Lake Erie SJBZ Zone, where the season may not exceed 30 days and the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose. In the Pymatuning Reservoir Area, the seasons, limits, and shooting hours for all geese shall be the same as those selected in the adjacent portion of Pennsylvania.

Tennessee:

(a) Northwest Zone - The season for Canada geese will close after 76 days or when 12,900 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The season may extend to February 15. All geese harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

(b) Southwest Zone - The season for Canada geese may extend for 61 days, and the harvest will be limited to 1,500 birds. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) Kentucky/Barkley Lakes Zone - The season for Canada geese will close after 50 days or when 1,800 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. All geese harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(d) Remainder of the State - The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Wisconsin: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 118,400 birds.

(a) Horicon Zone - The framework opening date for all geese is September 23. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 71,700 birds. The season may not exceed 80 days. All Canada geese harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the season limit will be the number of tags issued to each permittee.

(b) Collins Zone - The framework opening date for all geese is September 23. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 1,900 birds. The season may not exceed 65 days. All Canada geese harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese and the season limit will be the number of tags issued to each permittee.

(c) Exterior Zone - The framework opening date for all geese is September 23. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 40,300 birds, with 500 birds

allocated to the Mississippi River Subzone. The season may not exceed 86 days and the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese. In that portion of the Exterior Zone outside the Mississippi River Subzone, the progress of the harvest must be monitored, and the season closed, if necessary, to ensure that the harvest does not exceed 39,800 birds.

Additional Limits: In addition to the harvest limits stated for the respective zones above, an additional 4,500 Canada geese may be taken in the Horicon Zone under special agricultural permits.

Quota Zone Closures: When it has been determined that the quota of Canada geese allotted to the Northern Illinois, Central Illinois, Southern Illinois, and Rend Lake Quota Zones in Illinois, Posey County in Indiana, the Ballard and Henderson-Union Subzones in Kentucky, the Allegan County, Muskegon Wastewater, Saginaw County, and Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Units in Michigan, the Lac Qui Parle Zone in Minnesota, the Swan Lake Zone in Missouri, the Northwest and Kentucky/Barkley Lakes Zones in Tennessee, and the Exterior Zone in Wisconsin will have been filled, the season for taking Canada geese in the respective zone (and associated area, if applicable) will be closed by either the Director upon giving public notice through local information media at least 48 hours in advance of the time and date of closing, or by the State through State regulations with such notice and time (not less than 48 hours) as they deem necessary.

Central Flyway

The Central Flyway includes Colorado (east of the Continental Divide), Kansas, Montana (Counties of Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Judith Basin, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Wheatland, and all counties east thereof), Nebraska, New Mexico (east of the Continental Divide except the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation), North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming (east of the Continental Divide).

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between September 30 through January 21.

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:

(1) High Plains Mallard Management Unit (roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway which lies west of the 100th meridian): 83 days and a daily bag limit of 5 ducks, including no more than 1 female mallard, 1 mottled duck, 1 pintail, 1 redhead, 1 canvasback and 2 wood ducks. The last 23 days may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 9).

(2) Remainder of the Central Flyway: 60 days and a daily bag limit of 5 ducks, including no more than 1 female mallard, 1 mottled duck, 1 pintail, 1 redhead, 1 canvasback, and 2 wood ducks.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit of 5 mergansers may be taken, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

Zoning and Split Seasons: Montana, Nebraska (Low Plains portion), New Mexico, Oklahoma (Low Plains portion), and South Dakota (Low Plains portion) may select hunting seasons by zones.

In Montana, Nebraska (Low and High Plains portions), New Mexico, North Dakota (Low Plains portion), Oklahoma (Low and High Plains portions), South Dakota (High Plains portion), and Texas (Low Plains portion), the season may be split into two segments.

In Colorado, Kansas (Low and High Plains portions), North Dakota (High Plains portion), and Wyoming, the season may be split into three segments.

Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select seasons not to exceed 107 days; except for dark geese, which may not exceed 86 days in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and the Eastern Goose Zone of Texas. For dark geese, outside dates for seasons may be selected between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and January 31, except in the Western Goose Zone of Texas, where the closing date is the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 18). For light geese, outside dates for seasons may be selected between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 18), except in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska (south of I-80, except for Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harland, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, Saline, Seward, Thayer, and York Counties) New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, and Wyoming (south of I-80) where the closing date is March 10. Seasons may be split into two segments.

Daily bag limits in States in goose management zones within States, may be as follows:

Colorado: The daily bag limit is 5 light and 5 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted and 4 Canada geese.

Kansas: The daily bag limit is 10 light and 2 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted goose.

Montana: The daily bag limit is 5 light and 5 dark geese, including no more

than 1 white-fronted and 4 Canada geese.

Nebraska: The daily bag limit is 10 light and 2 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted goose.

New Mexico: For the Middle Rio Grande Valley Zone, the daily bag limit is 10 light and 5 dark, including no more than 1 white-fronted and 4 Canada geese.

For the remainder of the State, the daily bag limit is 5 light and 5 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted and 4 Canada geese.

North Dakota: The daily bag limit is 10 light and 2 dark geese.

Oklahoma: The daily bag limit is 10 light and 2 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted goose.

South Dakota: The daily bag limit is 10 light and 2 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted goose.

Texas: For the Western Goose zone, the daily bag limit is 5 light and 5 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted and 4 Canada geese.

For the Eastern Goose Zone, the daily bag limit is 10 light and 2 dark geese, including no more than 1 white-fronted goose.

Wyoming: The daily bag limit is 5 light and 5 dark, with no more than 1 white-fronted and 4 Canada geese.

Pacific Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, and Common Moorhens

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:

Concurrent 93 days and daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads and 1 canvasback.

In the Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit, the seasons may be an additional 7 days. The season on coots and common moorhens may be between the outside dates for the season on ducks, but not to exceed 93 days.

Coot and Common Moorhen Limits: The daily bag and possession limits of coots and common moorhens are 25, singly or in the aggregate.

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 21).

Zoning and Split Seasons: Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington may select hunting seasons by zones.

Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington may split their seasons into two segments either Statewide or in each zone.

Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming may split their duck seasons into three segments.

Colorado River Zone, California: Seasons and limits shall be the same as

seasons and limits selected in the adjacent portion of Arizona (South Zone).

Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: Except as subsequently noted, 100-day seasons may be selected, with outside dates between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 1), and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 21), and the basic daily bag limits are 3 light geese and 3 dark geese.

Brant Season - A 16-consecutive-day season may be selected in Oregon and Washington, and a 30-consecutive day season may be selected in California. In only California, Oregon, and Washington, the daily bag limit is 2 brant and is additional to dark goose limits, and the open season on brant in those States may differ from that for other geese.

Closures: There will be no open season on Aleutian Canada geese in the Pacific Flyway. The States of California, Oregon, and Washington must include a statement on the closure for that subspecies in their respective regulations leaflet. Emergency closures may be invoked for all Canada geese should Aleutian Canada goose distribution patterns or other circumstances justify such actions.

Arizona: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese.

California:

Northeastern Zone - White-fronted geese and cackling Canada geese may be taken only during the first 23 days of the goose season. The daily bag limit is 3 geese and may include no more than 2 dark geese; including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Colorado River Zone - The seasons and limits must be the same as those selected in the adjacent portion of Arizona (South Zone).

Southern Zone - The daily bag and possession limits for dark geese is 2 geese, including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Balance-of-the-State Zone - A 79-day season may be selected, except that white-fronted geese and cackling Canada geese may be taken during only the first 65 days of such season. Limits may not include more than 3 geese per day and in possession, of which not more than 1 may be a dark goose. The dark goose limits may be expanded to 2, provided that they are Canada geese other than cackling Canada geese for which the daily limit is 1.

Three areas in the Balance-of-the-State Zone are restricted in the hunting of certain geese:

(1) In the Counties of Del Norte and Humboldt, there will be no open season for Canada geese.

(2) In the Sacramento Valley Area, the season on white-fronted geese must end on or before December 14, and, except in the Western Canada Goose Hunt Area, there will be no open season for Canada geese.

(3) In the San Joaquin Valley Area, the hunting season for Canada geese will close no later than November 23.

Colorado: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese.

Idaho:

Northern Unit - The daily bag limit is 4 geese, including 4 dark geese, but not more than 3 light geese.

Southwest Unit and Southeastern Unit - The daily bag limit on dark geese is 4.

Montana:

West of Divide Zone and East of Divide Zone - The daily bag limit on dark geese is 4.

Nevada:

Clark County Zone - The daily bag limit of dark geese is 2 geese.

New Mexico: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese.

Oregon: Except as subsequently noted, the dark goose limit is 4, including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Harney, Lake, Klamath, and Malheur Counties Zone - The season length may be 100 days. The dark goose limit is 4, including not more than 2 white-fronted geese and cackling Canada goose.

Western Zone - In the Special Canada Goose Management Area, except for designated areas, there shall be no open season on Canada geese. In the designated areas, individual quotas shall be established which collectively shall not exceed 210 dusky Canada geese. See section on quota zones. In those designated areas, the daily bag limit of dark geese is 3, including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Utah: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese.

Washington: The daily bag limit is 4 geese, including 4 dark geese but not more than 3 light geese.

West Zone - In the Lower Columbia River Special Goose Management Area, except for designated areas, there shall be no open season on Canada geese. In the designated areas, individual quotas shall be established which collectively shall not exceed 90 dusky Canada geese. See section on quota zones.

Wyoming: The daily bag limit is 4 dark geese. In Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Sublette Counties, the combined special September Canada goose seasons and the regular goose season shall not exceed 100 days.

Quota Zones: Seasons on Canada geese must end upon attainment of individual quotas of dusky Canada geese allotted to the designated areas of Oregon and Washington. The September Canada goose season, the regular goose season, any special late Canada goose season, and any extended falconry season, combined, must not exceed 107 days and the established quota of dusky Canada geese must not be exceeded. Hunting of Canada geese in those designated areas shall only be by hunters possessing a State-issued permit authorizing them to do so. In a Service-approved investigation, the State must obtain quantitative information on hunter compliance of those regulations aimed at reducing the take of dusky Canada geese and eliminating the take of Aleutian Canada geese. The daily bag limit of Canada geese may not include more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

In the designated areas of the Washington Quota Zone, a special late Canada goose may be held between February 5 and March 10. The daily bag limit may not include either Aleutian or cackling Canada geese.

Swans

In designated areas of Utah, Nevada, and the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana, an open season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by States and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 swan per season. The season may open no earlier than the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30). The States must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the species composition of the swan harvest. In Utah and Nevada, the harvest-monitoring program must include physical examination of all harvested swans by State or Federal biologists. All States should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance in providing bagged swans for examination or, in the case of Montana, reporting bill-measurement and color information. All States must provide to the Service by June 30, 1996, a report covering harvest, hunter participation, reporting compliance, and monitoring of swan populations in the designated hunt areas. These seasons will be subject to the following conditions:

In Utah, no more than 2,750 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than the first Sunday in December (December 3) or upon attainment of 15 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest.

In Nevada, no more than 650 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than the Sunday following January

1 (January 7) or upon attainment of 5 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest.

In Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than December 1.

Tundra Swans

In Central Flyway portion of Montana, and in New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Virginia, an open season for taking a limited number of tundra swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 tundra swan per season. The States must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. These seasons will be subject to the following conditions:

In the Atlantic Flyway

—The season will be experimental.

—The season may be 90 days, must occur during the light goose season, but may not extend beyond January 31.

—In New Jersey, no more than 200 permits may be issued.

—In North Carolina, no more than 6,000 permits may be issued.

—In Virginia, no more than 600 permits may be issued.

In the Central Flyway

—The season may be 107 days and must occur during the light goose season.

—In the Central-Flyway portion of Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued.

—In North Dakota, no more than 2,000 permits may be issued.

—In South Dakota, no more than 1,500 permits may be issued.

In the Pacific Flyway

—Except as subsequently noted, a 100-day season may be selected between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 1), and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 21). Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The States of Montana, Nevada, and Utah must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the extent of accidental harvest of trumpeter swans.

—In Utah, no more than 2,500 permits may be issued. The season must end on or before December 15.

—In Nevada, no more than 650 permits may be issued.

—In the Pacific-Flyway portion of Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued.

Area, Unit and Zone Descriptions

Geese

Atlantic Flyway

Georgia

A Special Season for Canada Geese: Statewide.

New Jersey

Special Area for Canada Geese:

Northeast - that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206 in Bedminster (Exit 18); then north along Route 206 to its intersection with the Pennsylvania State boundary; then north along the Pennsylvania boundary in the Delaware River to its intersection with the New York State boundary.

Northwest - that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs east from the Pennsylvania State boundary at the toll bridge in Columbia to Route 94; then north along Route 94 to Route 206; then north along Route 206 to the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River; then south along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to the beginning point. Hereafter this proposed expansion of the hunt area will be referred to as the northwestern area.

Southeast - that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs east from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Garden State Parkway to Route 9; then south along Route 9 to Route 542; then west along Route 542 to the Mullica River; then north (upstream) on the Mullica River to Route 206; then south on Route 206 to Route 536; then west on route 536 to Route 55; then south on Route 55 to Route 40; then east on Route 50 to Route 557; then south on Route 557 to Route 666; then south on Route 666 to Route 49; then east on Route 49 to route 50; then south on Route 50 to Route 631; then east on Route 631 to Route 623; then east on Route 623 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north to the beginning point.

New York

Special Area for Canada Geese:

Westchester County and portions of Nassau, Putnam and Rockland Counties. See State regulations for detailed description.

South Carolina

Canada Goose Area: The Central Piedmont, Western Piedmont, and Mountain Hunt Units. These designated areas include: Counties of Abbeville, Anderson, Berkeley (south of Highway 45 and east of State Road 831), Cherokee, Chester, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, McCormick,

Newberry, Oconee, Orangebird (south of Highway 6), Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, and York.

Swans

Pacific Flyway

Montana (Pacific Flyway Portion)

Open Area: Cascade, Chouteau, Hill, Liberty, and Toole Counties and those portions of Pondera and Teton Counties lying east of U.S. 287-89.

Utah

Open Area: Those portions of Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Toole counties lying south of State Hwy 30, I-80/84, west of I-15, and north of I-80.

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