

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission ("Commission") will be hosting a meeting and rule hearing on Friday July 21, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish office, 7816 Alamo Rd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: presentation of proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule.

Synopsis:

The proposal is to amend the Migratory Game Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC which will become effective September 1, 2023. The most recent version of the rule expired on March 31, 2023.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates.
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework.

A full text of changes for all rules will be available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes for the Migratory Game Bird Rule to DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us. Individuals may also submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on July 20, 2023. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on July 21, 2023. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearings to be held on July 21, 2023.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rules, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/. This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director's Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission's Power to establish rules and regulations 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 6 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

19.31.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in migratory game bird management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds and fish.
[19.31.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.3 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, 2022~~2023~~ - March 31, 2023~~2024~~.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2022~~2023~~, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons, regulations, rules and procedures governing the issuance of migratory game bird licenses and permits by the department.
[19.31.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.6 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.

B. "Bernardo youth unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area immediately south of the Quagmire and east of the unit 7 drain.

C. "Central flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico east of the continental divide.

D. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.

E. "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

F. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

G. "Dove north zone" or "north zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

H. "Dove south zone" or "south zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

I. "Eastern New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "eastern" shall mean the following counties: Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay and Roosevelt.

J. "Estancia valley sandhill crane hunt area" or "EV" shall mean that area beginning at Mountainair bounded on the west by N.M. highway 55 north to N.M. 337, north to N.M. 14, and north to Interstate 25; on the north by Interstate 25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to N.M. 55 in Mountainair.

K. "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

L. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those 17 years of age and younger may hunt ducks, coots and gallinules in the Pacific flyway or ducks and coots in the central flyway. A supervising adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter. The adult may not hunt ducks, coots, or gallinules, but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days.

M. "Light geese" shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese and Ross's geese.

N. "Light goose conservation order" shall mean those methods, bag and possession limits and dates approved by the U.S. fish and wildlife service towards reducing over-abundant light goose populations.

- O.** "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area" shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.
- P.** "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area" shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.
- Q.** "Migratory game bird" shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, gallinule, snipe, ducks, geese, sora and Virginia rail.
- R.** "North zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway north of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- S.** "Pacific flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide.
- T.** "Possession limit" shall mean the number of birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored.
- U.** "Quagmire" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain.
- V.** "South zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway south of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- W.** "Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area" or "southwest BPHA" shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of Interstate 25.
- X.** "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "SW" shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.
- Y.** "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC Wildlife Management Areas.
[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF SANDHILL CRANE PERMITS: The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of permits to address significant changes in harvest levels. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes.
[19.31.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.8 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. License: A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number shall be required. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to have in their possession a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory birds without a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

(1) Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.

(2) For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane and SW sandhill crane: in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.

(3) For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

(4) For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

B. Valid dates of license or permit: All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.

[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

A. Hours: Migratory game birds may be hunted or taken only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specifically allowed or restricted by rule.

(1) On the Bottomless lakes overflow, and Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise

stated in rule. For hunting September teal on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs, hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

B. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled or managed by the state game commission:

(1) State wildlife management areas open, species that can be hunted and days open for hunting:

(a) Bernardo WMA:

(i) That portion of the Bernardo WMA south of U.S. 60 is open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and the federal youth waterfowl hunting days. That portion of the Bernardo WMA north of U.S. 60 is closed except during the light goose conservation order.

(ii) The Quagmire shall be open only on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iii) The Bernardo pond unit shall be open for general waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iv) The Bernardo youth unit shall be open for youth waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(b) The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, Water canyon, Marquez/LBar and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for hunting dove and band-tailed pigeon during established seasons.

(c) The portion of Jackson lake WMA west of N.M. 170 shall be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe. The portion of Jackson lake WMA east of N.M. 170 shall be open to falconry-only migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(d) The lesser prairie-chicken management areas, Double E and River Ranch WMAs shall be open to hunt dove during established seasons.

(e) La Joya WMA:

(i) the entire La Joya WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and each day of the federal youth waterfowl hunting days;

(ii) that portion of La Joya WMA north of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iii) that portion of La Joya WMA south of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iv) that portion of La Joya WMA east of the railroad tracks shall be open to hunt dove, ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons.

(f) The Charette lake, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, Socorro-Escondida, Hammond tract and Retherford tract WMAs shall be open for all migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(g) The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during established seasons.

(2) All WMAs shall be open to falconry waterfowl hunting each day of the established falconry season, unless otherwise restricted by rule.

[19.31.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.10 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 20222023-20232024 season, all dates are 20222023 unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white winged	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)

dove	south zone	Sept. 1—Oct. 28 and Dec. 1—Jan. 1, 2023	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1—14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1—14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 29—Jan. 29, 2023	3 (6 in possession)
CENTRAL FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.			
species	season dates	daily bag limit	
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal	Sept. 10—18	6 (singly or in the aggregate)	
ducks	north zone: Oct. 8—Jan. 11, 2023	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback	
	south zone: Oct. 28—Jan. 31, 2023		
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 24—25	Ducks: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15	
	south zone: Oct. 1—2		
American coot	north zone: Oct. 8—Jan. 11, 2023	15	
	south zone: Oct. 28—Jan. 31, 2023		
gallinule	Sept. 10—Nov. 18	4	
snipe	Oct. 8—Jan. 22, 2023	8	
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 10—Nov. 18	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)	
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17—Jan. 31, 2023	5	
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19—Jan. 31, 2023	2 (2 per season)	
light goose	Oct. 17—Jan. 31, 2023	50 (no possession limit)	
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1—Mar. 10, 2023	no bag or possession limit	
PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.			
Species	season dates	daily bag limit	
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 8—9	Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback; Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)	
Ducks	Oct. 19—Jan. 31, 2023	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback	
Scaup	Oct. 19—Jan. 12, 2023	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)	
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19—Jan. 31, 2023	25 (singly or in the aggregate)	

Snipe	Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2023	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 10 – Nov. 18	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 24 – Oct. 9 and Nov. 2 – Jan. 31, 2023	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, 2023	

species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white-winged dove	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)
	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2024	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 28 - Jan. 28, 2024	3 (6 in possession)

CENTRAL FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	season dates	daily bag limit
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal	Sept. 9 - 17	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 7 - Jan. 10, 2024	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard. (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2024	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 23 - 24	Ducks: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard. (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15
	south zone: Sept. 30 – Oct. 1	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 7 - Jan. 10, 2024	15
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2024	
gallinule	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17	1
snipe	Oct. 7 - Jan. 21, 2024	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024	2 (2 per season)
light goose	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2024	no bag or possession limit

PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

Species	season dates	daily bag limit
---------	--------------	-----------------

youth waterfowl days	Oct. 7 - 8	Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback; Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback
Scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2024	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 23 - Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2024	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: ~~2022~~~~2023~~ ~~2023~~~~2024~~ season, all dates are ~~2022~~~~2023~~ unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2023
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2023
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 10 - Dec. 25
snipe	all	Oct. 8 - Jan. 22, 2023
gallinule	all	Sept. 10 - Dec. 25
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 10 - 18 and Oct. 8 - Jan. 11, 2023
	south	Sept. 10 - 18 and Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2023
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2023
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2023
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 15 - Jan. 29, 2023; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 29 - Dec. 27; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2023
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2023
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2023
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2023
goose (all)	north	Sept. 24 - Oct. 9 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2023
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2023
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2023
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2023
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 10 - Nov. 18

CENTRAL FLYWAY

species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 - Dec. 24
snipe	all	Oct. 7 - Jan. 21, 2024
gallinule	all	Sept. 9 - Dec. 24
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 7 - Jan 10, 2024
	south	Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2024
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 14 - Jan. 28, 2024; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 28 - Dec. 26; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2024
goose (all)	north	Sept. 23 - Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2024
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.13 RESERVED

[19.31.6.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.13 NMAC, 9/1/2022; Repealed, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:

Blind selection will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult who may not hunt. A maximum of four people, at least half of which must be youth hunters, is allowed per blind.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.15 SEASON DATES, OPEN AREAS, BAG LIMITS, HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:

A. The daily bag limit is 3. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for the MRGV youth-only hunt where the daily bag and possession limit is 3. The hunting seasons for ~~2022-2023~~ ~~2023-2024~~ are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct. 29 - Nov. 1 and Nov. 3 - Nov. 6	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 12 - 13	SCR-0-102	80
MRGV	Nov. 26 - Nov. 27	SCR-0-103	80
MRGV	Dec. 10 - 11	SCR-0-104	80

MRGV	Jan. 7 - 8, 2023	SCR-0-105	80
MRGV	Jan. 14 - 15, 2023	SCR-0-106	80
MRGV, youth only	Nov. 19	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 7 - 8, 2023	SCR-0-109	70

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct. 28 - Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 - Nov. 5	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 11 - 12	SCR-0-102	80
MRGV	Nov. 25 - Nov. 26	SCR-0-103	80
MRGV	Dec. 9 - 10	SCR-0-104	80
MRGV	Jan. 6 - 7, 2024	SCR-0-105	80
MRGV	Jan. 13 - 14, 2024	SCR-0-106	80
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 18	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 6 - 7, 2024	SCR-0-109	70

B. Hunters who participate in the MRGV season shall be required to check-out at designated check stations when they harvest any sandhill cranes.

C. The department may cancel one or more EV, MRGV or SW sandhill crane hunts if harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.
[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC Filing History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/67; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Common Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/68; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants,

And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

NMAC History:

19 NMAC 31.6, Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1995
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000 - duration expired 3/31/2002
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002 - duration expired 3/31/2003
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2004
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2005
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005 - duration expired 3/31/2006
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2007
 19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007 - duration expired 3/31/2008
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008 - duration expired 3/31/2009
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2010
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2011
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011 - duration expired 3/31/2012
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012 - duration expired 3/31/2013
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013 - duration expired 3/31/2014
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/31/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2015
 19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9/1/2015 - duration expired 3/31/2016

19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/30/2016 - duration expired 3/31/2017
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2018
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/2/2018 - duration expired 3/31/2019
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/28/2019 - duration expired 3/31/2020
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/20 - duration expired 3/31/2021
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/12/21 - duration expired 3/31/2022
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/22 - duration expired 3/31/2023

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

NMAC**Transmittal Form**NEW MEXICO
State Records Center and Archives
COMMISSION OF PUBLIC RECORDS
Your Access to Public InformationVolume: Issue: Publication date: Number of pages: (ALD Use Only) Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address:

Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

Type of rule action:

(ALD Use) Recent filing date:

New ☒ Amendment ☐ Repeal ☐ Emergency ☐ Renumber ☐

Title number:

Title name:

Chapter number:

Chapter name:

Part number:

Part name:

Amendment description (If filing an amendment):

Amendment's NMAC citation (If filing an amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference?

Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received?

Yes ☐No ☐Public domain ☐**Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:**

Notice date(s):

Hearing date(s):

Rule adoption date:

Rule effective date:

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

Concise Explanatory Statement For Rulemaking Adoption:

Findings required for rulemaking adoption:

Findings MUST include:

- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
- Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Migratory Game Bird rule, 19.31.6 NMAC, which will become effective September 1, 2023. The most recent Migratory Game Bird rule expired on March 31, 2023.

The new rule will include:

- * Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates.
- * Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework.

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. There were no substantive arguments made through public comment that were not accepted. To view public comments, please visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the Hearing Archive tab. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter satisfaction.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):

Name:

Michael B. Sloane

Check if authority has been delegated

☐

Title:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Signature: (BLACK ink only OR Digital Signature)

Date signed:

Michael B. Sloane Digitally signed by Michael B. Sloane
Date: 2023.08.02 10:05:32 -06'00'

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 6 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD

19.31.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in migratory game bird management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds and fish.
[19.31.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.3 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2023, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons, regulations, rules and procedures governing the issuance of migratory game bird licenses and permits by the department.
[19.31.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.6 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.

B. "Bernardo youth unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area immediately south of the Quagmire and east of the unit 7 drain.

C. "Central flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico east of the continental divide.

D. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.

E. "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

F. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

G. "Dove north zone" or "north zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

H. "Dove south zone" or "south zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

I. "Eastern New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "eastern" shall mean the following counties: Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay and Roosevelt.

J. "Estancia valley sandhill crane hunt area" or "EV" shall mean that area beginning at Mountainair bounded on the west by N.M. 55 north to N.M. 337, north to N.M. 14, and north to Interstate 25; on the north by Interstate 25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to N.M. 55 in Mountainair.

K. "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

L. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those 17 years of age and younger may hunt ducks, coots and gallinules in the Pacific flyway or ducks and coots in the central flyway. A supervising adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter. The adult may not hunt ducks, coots or gallinules, but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days.

M. "Light geese" shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese and Ross's geese.

N. "Light goose conservation order" shall mean those methods, bag and possession limits and dates approved by the U.S. fish and wildlife service towards reducing over-abundant light goose populations.

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

O. “Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area” shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.

P. “Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area” shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.

Q. “Migratory game bird” shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, gallinule, snipe, ducks, geese, sora and Virginia rail.

R. “North zone” shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway north of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

S. “Pacific flyway” shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide.

T. “Possession limit” shall mean the number of birds in a person’s possession regardless of the location stored.

U. “Quagmire” shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain.

V. “South zone” shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of Interstate 40, and that portion of the central flyway south of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

W. “Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area” or “southwest BPHA” shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of Interstate 25.

X. “Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area” or “SW” shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.

Y. “Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs” shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF SANDHILL CRANE PERMITS: The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of permits to address significant changes in harvest levels. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes.

[19.31.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.8 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. License: A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number shall be required. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to have in their possession a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory birds without a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

(1) Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.

(2) For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane and SW sandhill crane: in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.

(3) For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

(4) For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

B. Valid dates of license or permit: All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.

[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

A. Hours: Migratory game birds may be hunted or taken only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specifically allowed or restricted by rule.

(1) On the Bottomless lakes overflow, and Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

stated in rule. For hunting September teal on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs, hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

B. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled or managed by the state game commission:

(1) State wildlife management areas open, species that can be hunted and days open for hunting:

(a) Bernardo WMA:

(i) That portion of the Bernardo WMA south of U.S. 60 is open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and the federal youth waterfowl hunting days. That portion of the Bernardo WMA north of U.S. 60 is closed except during the light goose conservation order.

(ii) The Quagmire shall be open only on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iii) The Bernardo pond unit shall be open for general waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iv) The Bernardo youth unit shall be open for youth waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(b) The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, Water canyon, Marquez/LBar and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for hunting dove and band-tailed pigeon during established seasons.

(c) The portion of Jackson lake WMA west of N.M. 170 shall be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe. The portion of Jackson lake WMA east of N.M. 170 shall be open to falconry-only migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(d) The lesser prairie-chicken management areas, Double E and River Ranch WMAs shall be open to hunt dove during established seasons.

(e) La Joya WMA:

(i) the entire La Joya WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and each day of the federal youth waterfowl hunting days;

(ii) that portion of La Joya WMA north of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iii) that portion of La Joya WMA south of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iv) that portion of La Joya WMA east of the railroad tracks shall be open to hunt dove, ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, gallinule, American coot and snipe during established seasons.

(f) The Charette lake, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, Socorro-Escondida, Hammond tract and Retherford tract WMAs shall be open for all migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(g) The W.S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during established seasons.

(2) All WMAs shall be open to falconry waterfowl hunting each day of the established falconry season, unless otherwise restricted by rule.

[19.31.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.10 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2023-2024
season, all dates are 2023 unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white-winged	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

dove	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2024	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 28 - Jan. 28, 2024	3 (6 in possession)
CENTRAL FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.			
species	season dates	daily bag limit	
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and cinnamon teal	Sept. 9 - 17	6 (singly or in the aggregate)	
ducks	north zone: Oct. 7 - Jan. 10, 2024	6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback	
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2024		
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 23 - 24	Ducks: 6 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback Coots: 15	
	south zone: Sept. 30 – Oct. 1		
American coot	north zone: Oct. 7 - Jan. 10, 2024	15	
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2024		
gallinule	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17	1	
snipe	Oct. 7 - Jan. 21, 2024	8	
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17	10 (singly or in the aggregate; 20 in possession)	
dark goose: regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	5	
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024	2 (2 per season)	
light goose	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	50 (no possession limit)	
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2024	no bag or possession limit	
PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.			
Species	season dates	daily bag limit	
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 7 - 8	Ducks: 7 (singly or in the aggregate) that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback; Coots and gallinules: 25 (singly or in the aggregate)	
Ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail and 2 canvasback	
Scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2024	2 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)	
American coot and gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024	25 (singly or in the aggregate)	
Snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	8	

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17	25 (singly or in the aggregate)
Goose	north zone: Sept. 23 - Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2024	5 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 2023-2024 season, all dates are 2023 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 - Dec. 24
snipe	all	Oct. 7 - Jan. 21, 2024
gallinule	all	Sept. 9 - Dec. 24
ducks and coots	north	Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 7 - Jan 10, 2024
	south	Sept. 9 - 17 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2024
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 14 - Jan. 28, 2024; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 28 - Dec. 26; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2024
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
ducks	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2024
goose (all)	north	Sept. 23 - Oct. 8 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2024
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2024
coots and gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2024
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 9 - Nov. 17

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.13 RESERVED

[19.31.6.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.13 NMAC, 9/1/2022; Repealed, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:

Blind selection will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult who may not hunt. A maximum of four people, at least half of which must be youth hunters, is allowed per blind.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

19.31.6.15 SEASON DATES, OPEN AREAS, BAG LIMITS, HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

A. The daily bag limit is 3. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for the MRGV youth-only hunt where the daily bag and possession limit is 3. The hunting seasons for 2023-2024 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct. 28 - Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 - Nov. 5	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 11 - 12	SCR-0-102	80
MRGV	Nov. 25 - Nov. 26	SCR-0-103	80
MRGV	Dec. 9 - 10	SCR-0-104	80
MRGV	Jan. 6 - 7, 2024	SCR-0-105	80
MRGV	Jan. 13 - 14, 2024	SCR-0-106	80
MRGV, youth-only	Nov. 18	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 6 - 7, 2024	SCR-0-109	70

B. Hunters who participate in the MRGV season shall be required to check-out at designated check stations when they harvest any sandhill cranes.

C. The department may cancel one or more EV, MRGV or SW sandhill crane hunts if harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9/1/2023]

HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC Filing History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/67; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Common Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/68; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove,

2023 AUG -3 AM 10: 51

And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

NMAC History:

19 NMAC 31.6, Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1995
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/15/2000 - duration expired 3/31/2002
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/26/2002 - duration expired 3/31/2003
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/12/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2004
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/2/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2005
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/8/2005 - duration expired 3/31/2006
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2007
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8/16/2007 - duration expired 3/31/2008
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/2008 - duration expired 3/31/2009
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/17/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2010
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/2/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2011
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/2011 - duration expired 3/31/2012
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/14/2012 - duration expired 3/31/2013
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/29/2013 - duration expired 3/31/2014
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/31/2014 - duration expired 3/31/2015
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9/1/2015 - duration expired 3/31/2016
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6/30/2016 - duration expired 3/31/2017
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/2017 - duration expired 3/31/2018
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/2/2018 - duration expired 3/31/2019
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/28/2019 - duration expired 3/31/2020
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/13/20 - duration expired 3/31/2021
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/12/21 - duration expired 3/31/2022
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7/27/22 - duration expired 3/31/2023
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8/1/23 - duration expired 3/31/2024

Migratory Game Bird

19.31.6 NMAC

July 21, 2023

Stewart Liley

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Albuquerque, NM



S. Liley, July 21, 2023

Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

- **Adjust season dates according to calendar and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks**
- **Adjust bag/possession limits according to USFWS frameworks**
- **Final frameworks to be published in Federal Register**



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

- **Change regular migratory game bird season dates based on calendar dates and public comment**
- **No change in crane permit numbers**
- **Pintail bag limit to remain at one**
- **No changes for dove seasons**



S. Liley, July 21, 2023

Public Comment

- 5 comments received as of July 19, 2023
- Public meeting held in Albuquerque and via Zoom on April 26th: two members of the public attended
- Comments received:
 - Shift CF snipe season later to align with closure of south zone duck season
 - Crane hunting
 - Duck stamp requirements
 - North/south opening dates



S. Liley, July 21, 2023

Questions?



S. Liley, July 21, 2023

Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2023-24 Central Flyway Seasons

Species	Zone	2022–2023		2023–2024	
		Open	Close	Open	Close
Ducks and coots	North Zone	Oct. 8	Jan. 11	Oct. 7	Jan. 10
	South Zone	Oct. 28	Jan. 31	Oct. 28	Jan. 31
Dark geese	MRGV	Dec. 19	Jan. 31	Dec. 19	Jan. 31
	Rest of State	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Light geese	All Central Flyway	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Rails and moorhens	All Central Flyway	Sep. 10	Nov. 18	Sep. 9	Nov. 17
Snipe	All Central Flyway	Oct. 8	Jan. 22	Oct. 7	Jan. 21
Youth waterfowl	North Zone	Sep. 24	Sep. 25	Sep. 23	Sep. 24
	South Zone	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Sep. 30	Oct. 1
September teal	All Central Flyway	Sep. 10	Sep. 18	Sep. 9	Sep. 17

- Includes falconry, youth waterfowl days, and September teal

S. Liley, July 21, 2023



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2023-24 Pacific Flyway Seasons

Species	Zone	2022–2023		2023–2024	
		Open	Close	Open	Close
Ducks and coots	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 19	Jan. 31	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
Scaup	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 19	Jan. 12	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
Dark and light geese	North Zone	Sep. 24	Oct. 9	Sep. 23	Oct. 8
	North Zone	Nov. 2	Jan. 31	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South Zone	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Sora and Virginia rail	All Pacific Flyway	Sep. 10	Nov. 18	Sep. 9	Nov. 17
Snipe	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 17	Jan. 31	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Youth waterfowl	All Pacific Flyway	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 7	Oct. 8

- Includes falconry and youth waterfowl days

S. Liley, July 21, 2023



PROPOSED MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE SUMMARY, 2023–2024

Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. Please note that seasons are not considered final until they have been published in the Federal Register.

Proposed amendments for the 2023–24 season include:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates
- Based on population survey data, possible small decrease to sandhill crane permits in MRGV, to be distributed among existing hunts
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework

Proposed Central Flyway Seasons. Includes falconry, youth waterfowl days, and a 9-day September teal season.

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 7	Jan. 10
	South Zone	Oct. 28	Jan. 31
Geese:			
Dark Geese	MRGV	Dec. 19	Jan. 31
	Rest of State	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Light Geese	North and South Zones	Oct. 17	Jan. 31

Proposed Pacific Flyway Seasons. Includes falconry and youth waterfowl days.

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North and South Zones	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
Scaup	North and South Zones	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
All Geese:	North 1	Sept. 23	Oct. 8
	North 2	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South	Oct. 17	Jan. 31

If you would like to comment on the proposal, send email to: DGF-waterfowl@dgf.nm.gov



Technical Information for Migratory Game Bird Rule Development



Survey and Harvest Data

Migratory game bird management in the United States, including New Mexico, is a cooperative effort between state and federal governments. Management decisions are based on information gathered from bird population surveys, monitoring of harvest, hunter surveys, public comment, biological information, and environmental surveys. Migratory game bird banding and recovery data, surveys of birds on their breeding areas, as well as wetland condition surveys in waterfowl breeding areas provide the necessary information used to set hunting and harvest regulations for migratory game birds. In New Mexico, the establishment of migratory game bird hunting rules and regulations remains a cooperative process performed annually within the Flyway system. Both the Central and Pacific Flyways are involved in setting hunting regulations for migratory game birds in New Mexico and seasons are selected from within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's federal season frameworks. Survey and harvest data used in setting hunting rules and regulations for New Mexico are included in Figures 1–4.

Mallard

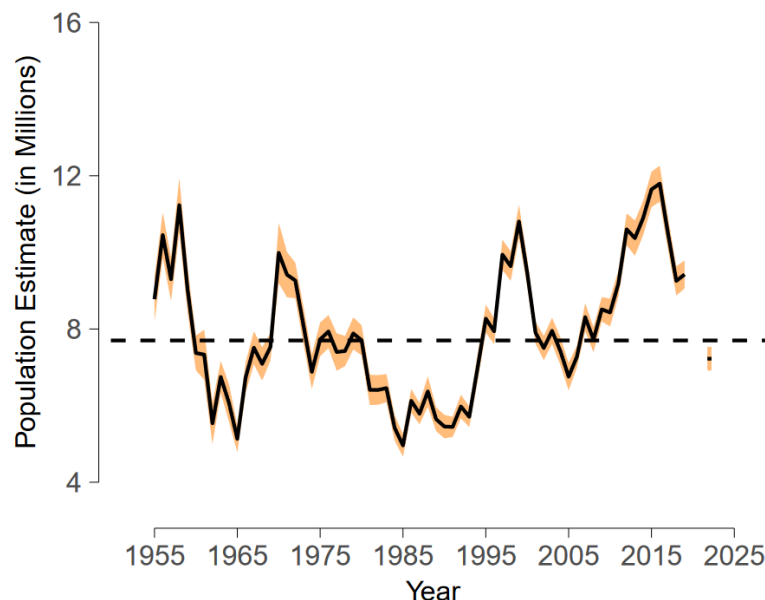


Figure 1. Breeding population estimate, 90% confidence interval, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan goal (dashed line) for mallards in the traditional survey area. Estimated mallard abundance for 2022 was 7.2 ± 0.2 million. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey was cancelled in spring 2020 and 2021.

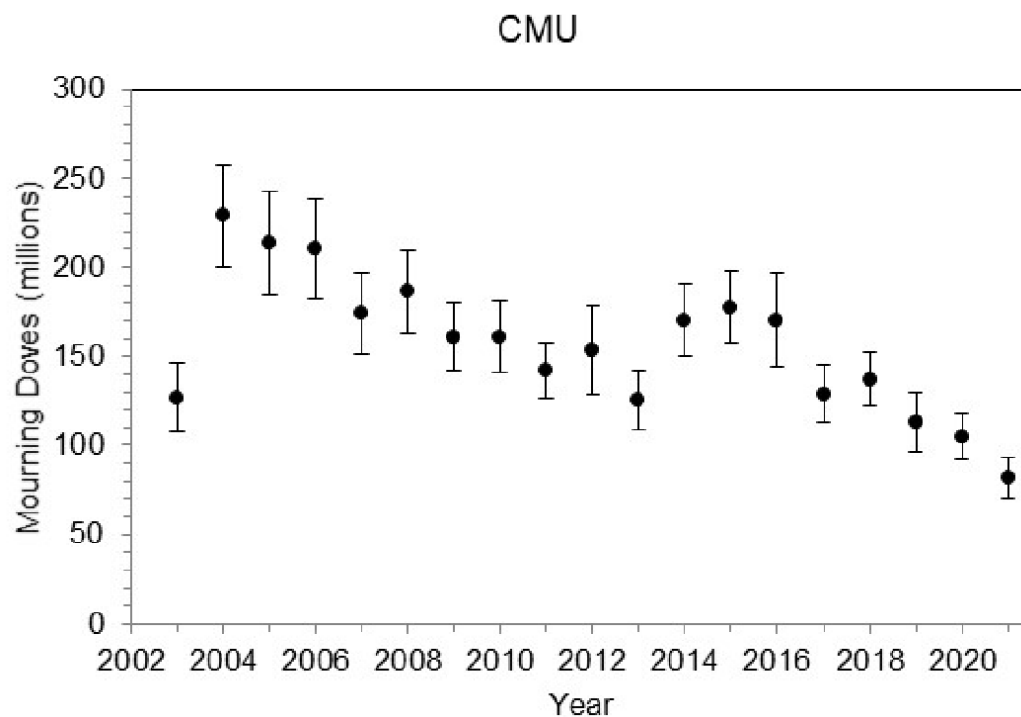


Figure 2. Estimates and 95% confidence intervals of mourning dove absolute abundance in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2021. Estimates are based on band recovery and harvest data.

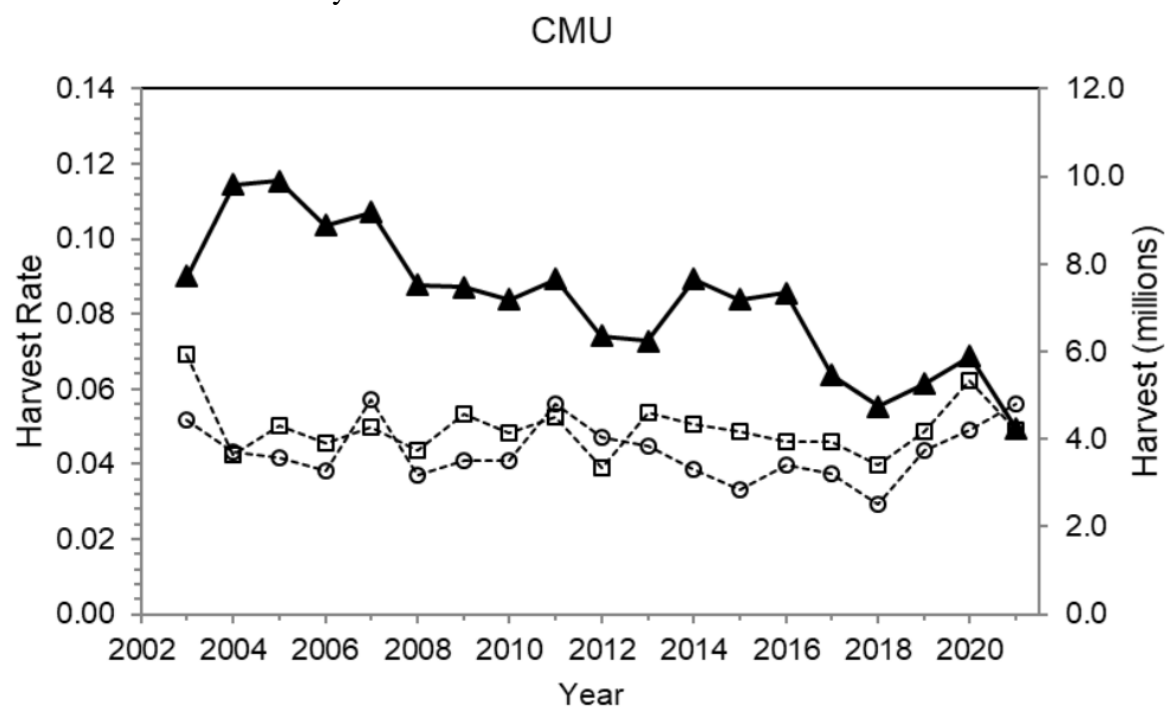


Figure 3. Estimated harvest (triangle) and harvest rates of mourning dove in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2021. Harvest rates are presented separately for hatch-year (square) and after-hatch-year (circle) doves.

Year	UT	CO	ID	WY	MT	TOTAL	3-Year AVG
1987	1,578	1,443	10,686	2,327	1,447	17,481	
1992	2,810	3,181	5,801	2,248	5,264	19,304	
1995	1,528	2,284	6,864	1,671	3,681	16,028	
1996	1,849	1,255	8,334	2,526	2,974	16,938	
1997 ^{a,b}	2,450	1,604	8,132	2,255	3,595	18,036	17,001
1998	2,185	1,273	8,067	3,162	3,415	18,102	17,692
1999	2,292	1,102	8,761	4,205	3,141	19,501	18,546
2000	2,416	749	9,337	3,890	3,598	19,990	19,198
2001	1,522	666	7,160	2,626	4,585	16,559	18,683
2002	1,869	1,355	7,698	3,038	4,843	18,803	18,451
2003	2,546	745	7,822	3,446	4,964	19,523	18,295
2004	2,239	1,410	7,152	3,072	4,637	18,510	18,945
2005	2,646	1,052	7,668	3,911	5,588	20,865	19,633
2006 ^c						NS	19,633
2007 ^d	2,401	1,743	8,262	3,907	6,509	22,822	20,732
2008 ^e	3,708	1,080	6,123	3,826	6,419	21,156	21,614
2009	2,283	1,162	6,934	3,613	6,329	20,321	21,433
2010	3,242	985	5,776	3,726	7,335	21,064	20,847
2011	1,498	1,347	5,029	2,978	6,642	17,494	19,626
2012	2,109	413	3,432	3,587	5,876	15,417	17,992
2013	2,732	1,594	5,228	3,588	7,218	20,360	17,757
2014	2,783	1,258	6,064	3,008	6,555	19,668	18,482
2015	3,698	1,089	6,454	3,596	9,493	24,330	21,453
2016 ^f	3,298	1,135	5,445	4,879	7,507	22,264	22,087
2017	2,994	1,658	4,066	3,725	7,149	19,592	22,062
2018	2,770	1,908	4,469	5,101	7,553	21,801	21,219
2019	3,106	1,879	4,428	4,366	7,511	21,290	20,894
2020	3,222	1,446	5,096	6,608	9,264	25,636	22,909
2021	3,889	3,141	3,091	6,059	7,783	23,963	23,630

^a Incomplete survey efforts in years prior might have resulted in lower estimates; the official count begins in 1997.

^b In October 1997, a special survey was also conducted in the SLV, Colorado and other areas, which resulted in a total of 27,090 Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent cranes being counted.

^c In 2006, the survey was not conducted due to mechanical issues with the survey plane. The 3-yr Avg for 2006 is calculated using 2003-05.

^d The 3-yr average for 2007 was calculated using 2004, 2005, and 2007 because there was no survey in 2006.

^e The 3-yr average for 2008 was calculated using 2005, 2007, and 2008 because there was no survey in 2006.

^f Beginning 1n 2016 Wyoming added six new survey areas as allowed in the management plan.

Figure 4. Fall pre-migration indices for Rocky Mountain sandhill cranes.

From: [Matt Fisher](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Asking to change the date.
Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023 9:27:20 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Thank you the chance to ask for a change. Other states separated their start dates and it didn't work out, so they changed. Please don't separate the start dates north from south. Please open the state on the same day. It doesn't make sense that I40 divide the line other than confusing hunters of where they can go and when. It also puts more work on conservation officers in trying to enforce the change.

I'm respectfully asking that the hunt date for waterfowl start Oct 17th for the state of New Mexico. Thank you.

From: [Robert Cole](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cranes
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:12:29 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

No one ought to be shooting sandhill or other cranes. I bet no one depends on them for food. And I bet none of NM hunters eat them. Just shoot them for "Sport "

WTF??

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Randy Creighton](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Migratory Bird Rule 2023-24
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 1:52:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I looks like the proposal is the same season structure of recent years, which I endorse.

My only suggestion would be to shift the Central Flyway snipe season so that its closure aligns with the South Zone duck season, ending January 31. This is already the case for the Pacific Flyway so it would bring some consistency. I've also had to pass up a few opportunities at snipe in late January because of the earlier (Jan 22 for instance) closure.

Thank you,
Randy Creighton

From: [Christina Huntnlady](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sandhill Crane hunting requirement suggestion
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 12:17:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I would submit that in my humble opinion, Sandhill Crane hunting should require a federal duck stamp as well as the Crane stamp, as many duck opportunities arise while Crane hunting. The ethical hunter should not take ducks without a Federal duck stamp, but I know that many guys will.

Christina Mann, Wildlife Biologist, Carlsbad

From: [Henry Martinez](#)
To: [DGF-Waterfowl](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:27:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Why are the Sandcrane bird being hunted in the first place. That's not a wise choice for people who kill these birds for the sport of it.

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: July 21, 2023

Agenda Number: X

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Rule Making Hearing on Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) for the 2023 – 2024 hunting season.

1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird Rule (19.31.6 NMAC) based on public comment, the latest information from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), recent survey information, and management goals. Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the USFWS working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. The proposed amendments focus on:

- Changes to regular waterfowl and webless game bird season dates, based on public comment and calendar dates
- No changes to the number of sandhill crane draw permits. Changes to sandhill crane season dates, based on public comment and calendar dates
- Bag limit for northern pintail to remain at 1 per USFWS regulatory framework
- No changes for dove or band-tailed pigeon seasons

2. Background Information

The migratory game bird rule is amended annually, ensuring compliance with Flyway recommendations and Federal guidelines. In New Mexico, season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the Central and Pacific Flyways and the USFWS. The process for setting migratory bird hunting regulations is described briefly below.

Migratory game bird management in the US is a cooperative effort between state and federal governments. The US and Canada are divided into four regulatory flyways and each has a Flyway Council consisting of representatives from state and provincial wildlife agencies. Flyway Councils are advised by technical committees made up of state and provincial biologists. These technical committees make management recommendations to the Councils based on population, harvest, and hunter data. After considering technical committee input, the Flyway Councils then recommend migratory bird hunting regulations to the USFWS. The USFWS evaluates these recommendations and presents them to the Service's Regulations Committee for decision. These decisions are then forwarded to the USFWS director and Assistant Secretary of the Interior for approval. Once approved, these proposed annual migratory bird hunting frameworks are published in the Federal Register for public comment. After considering

public comment, final recommendations and frameworks are developed and published in the Federal Register. After publication of these final migratory bird hunting frameworks, states can select their hunting seasons.

3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Department's Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023

4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The Department has posted proposed changes to the migratory game bird rule on its website. Input has been gathered from mail, email, and public meetings with interested members of the public. A hybrid public meeting was held on April 26th in Albuquerque and via Zoom to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the migratory game bird rule.

Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to repeal and replace 19.31.6 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”