

James River Wildlife Managment Area

July 2026 - June 2027 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

The complete regulations are available at www.dwr.virginia.gov and contain the full text of the regulations. It is the responsibility of hunters and trappers to know and abide by all rules stated in the full text of regulations online.

A HIP number is required for all Migratory Game Bird Hunting except for Crow
Waterfowl hunting on the James River WMA is permitted only on the opening day, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the Duck and Goose Seasons.

Doves		
Season:	Sept. 5	Noon untill sunset
	Sept. 6 – Oct. 24	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Nov. 21 - 29	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Dec. 19 - Jan. 18	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
Bag Limit:	15 daily, 45 in possession	(Bag limit composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.)

Woodcock		
Season:	Nov. 11 – Dec. 1	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Dec. 26 - Jan. 18	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
Bag Limit:	3 daily, 9 in possession	

September Teal		
Season:	Sept. 22 - 27	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
Bag Limit:	6 daily, 18 in possession	(Any combination of blue-winged and green-winged teal only)

September Canada Goose		
Season:	Sept. 1 – 21	One half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset
	Sept. 22 – 25	One half-hour before sunrise to sunset
Bag Limit:	10 daily, 30 in possession	

Canada Goose		
Season:	Nov. 18 - 29	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Dec. 19 - Feb. 21	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
(All seasons include White-Fronted Geese along with Canada Geese)		
Bag Limit:	5 daily, 15 in possession	

Ducks, Mergansers, Coots

Youth/Veterans Day:	Oct. 24, 2026 & Feb. 6, 2027		
Season:	Oct. 9 - 12	(Black Duck Closed)	One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Nov. 18 - 29		One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Dec. 19 - Jan. 31		One half-hour before sunrise until sunset
	Closed season on harlequin ducks.		
Duck Bag Limit:	6 ducks of any species <u>except</u> for the following restrictions: can include <u>no more than</u> - 4 mallards (only 2 hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks (except closed Oct. 9–12), scaup: 1/day for 40 days (Oct. 9–12, Nov. 18–29, Dec. 19–Jan. 11), and 2/day for 20 days (Jan. 12–31), 2 redheads, 2 canvasback 3 pintails, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 4 total sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders [only 1 hen], 3 long-tailed ducks)		
Mergansers Bag Limit:	5 daily, 15 in possession	(Can include any combination of hooded, red breasted, and common mergansers.)	
American Coot Bag Limit:	15 daily, 15 in possession		

Crow		
Season:	Sept. 2 - Mar. 10	Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays only.
Bag Limit:	No Limit	



Scan here or visit dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/migratory-gamebirds for up-to-date info and regulations

Hunting, fishing, and trapping by properly licensed individuals is allowed.
No additional permit is required to hunt, fish, or trap in this area.