



Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

2011-2012 INDIANA

Upland and Small Game Guide



hunting.IN.gov

Introduction

When it comes to hunting, whether it's in Indiana or most other Midwestern states, the two glamour species are white-tailed deer and wild turkey.

They draw the most attention because they draw the most hunters.

But there's another hunting tradition that is perhaps more enriching when given the chance. It's the pursuit of small game – primarily squirrels and rabbits, but also game birds like mourning dove, quail, pheasant, ruffed grouse and woodcock, and even frogs and turtles.

Every one of those species will challenge your outdoor skills, and if successful, provide you with superb table fare.

Furthermore, the skills acquired and polished in the woods and fields while hunting squirrels, rabbits and the like can come in handy when it comes to hunting deer and turkeys.

In his book *Small Game Hunting*, Francis E. Sell states: "The relationship between big and small game hunting is seldom stressed, and when it is stressed, it is seldom that techniques are examined in detail to show how small game hunting improves big game hunting skills. One cannot be a mediocre squirrel hunter, and at the same time a skillful deer hunter. The two techniques go together."

Techniques such as marksmanship, knowledge of habitat and wildlife behavior, stalking, still hunting, and most of all patience.

Despite all the positive aspects of small game hunting, participation continues to decline.

There were 4.8 million small game hunters in 2006, according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. That was down from 6.9 million in 1996.

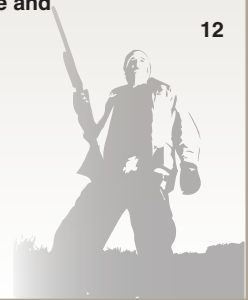
A DNR harvest survey for the 2010-2011 hunting season estimated the number of small game hunters at 132,477, down more than 2 percent from two years earlier. In 1976, the DNR pegged the number of small game hunters in the state at almost 325,000.

Regardless of reasons for the decline, the fact remains that small game hunting is challenging and readily available on thousands of acres of public ground in Indiana.

This guidebook provides basic information on what you need to give it a try.

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General Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Unless otherwise exempted, a valid license and applicable state or federal stamp privileges are required to hunt any wild animal in Indiana.

You must carry your license (and applicable state and federal stamp privileges and HIP number) with you while hunting and produce them on the request of any conservation officer or other authorized law enforcement officer.

Should you lose your license, you can **reprint your license online**, or contact DNR Customer Service at (317) 232-4200 or toll-free at (877) 463-6367.

Licenses issued by the DNR may be revoked at the discretion of a court upon conviction of fish and wildlife law violations, or at the discretion of the department for non-compliance with conditions under which licenses are issued.

Equipment such as guns and vehicles used in violation of fish and wildlife laws may be seized for evidence, and upon conviction, confiscated at the discretion of the court.

A resident is a person whose true fixed and permanent home and principal residence has been in Indiana for 60 consecutive days prior to purchasing a license or permit and who does not claim residency for hunting, trapping or fishing in another state or country, other than the U.S. All others are non-residents.

Exemptions

You must have and carry a valid license and applicable state stamp privileges to hunt any wild animal, with exceptions as follows:

Residents or non-residents participating in a field trial sanctioned by the DNR director.

Landowners, or lessees of farmland who farm that land and are residents of Indiana, their spouses and children living with them, while hunting, fishing or trapping on the land they own or lease. This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation or partnership unless the shareholders, partners, members or owners are comprised solely of the members of an immediate family and farm that land. Farmland means agricultural

land that is devoted or best adaptable for the production of crops, fruits, timber or the raising of livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes.

The law does not exempt non-residents who lease land in Indiana. Non-resident lessees are still required to purchase non-resident hunting and trapping licenses.

Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service and who are carrying their leave orders and a valid Indiana driver's license or Indiana voter registration card.

Non-resident military personnel on active duty and stationed within Indiana may hunt or fish with a resident license.

An individual who is less than 13 years of age; does not possess a bow or firearm; and is accompanied by an individual who is at least 18 years of age and holds a valid license.

Non-resident landowner exemptions

Some non-resident Indiana landowners are exempt from Indiana hunting, fishing and trapping license requirements.

Indiana law exempts a non-resident landowner according to the exemption that the non-resident's state provides for Indiana residents. The non-resident must possess proof of ownership of the farmland while hunting (i.e. tax receipt).

Non-resident owners of Indiana farmland, their spouses and children who live with them are exempt from license requirements while hunting or trapping on their land if they are residents of one of the following states and meet the additional listed conditions:

- Iowa (small game only)
- Virginia

Landowners who are residents from states not listed must have and carry a valid non-resident license to hunt any wild animal. All non-resident landowners are required to have a valid non-resident license when hunting on land other than their own.

The law does not exempt non-residents who lease land in Indiana. Non-resident lessees are still required to purchase non-resident hunting and trapping licenses.

Hunter Education

In order to purchase a hunting license, anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986 must successfully complete a hunter education class offered by the DNR (See the Apprentice License exception below). Hunters certified in another state or Canada can also present a card or certificate and purchase an Indiana hunting license.

The DNR hunter education program teaches hunter responsibility and ethics, wildlife conservation and management, firearm safety, wildlife identification, game care, survival and first aid. Hunter education is not just for children and not just for hunters. The program is for all Hoosiers who enjoy the outdoors and have an interest in conservation. The course can also be an excellent refresher for veteran hunters. The DNR offers hunter education courses in counties throughout the state. The program takes approximately 10 hours to complete. For information on classes in your area, visit the DNR Law Enforcement's website.

Apprentice Hunting Licenses

An apprentice hunter can be of any age. An apprentice hunter can be a resident or non-resident.

Apprentice licenses allow individuals to experience hunting without having to take a hunter education class.

An individual can purchase no more than 3 apprentice hunting licenses during his/her lifetime.

An individual who is at least 18 years old and has a valid hunting license (or is exempt from needing a hunting license under state law) must be in close proximity and be able to communicate at all times with the apprentice hunter. The individual who accompanies the apprentice hunter cannot accompany more than 2 apprentice hunters at one time while in the field.

The apprentice resident youth consolidated hunting and trapping license includes the same licenses and stamp privileges as the regular resident youth consolidated hunting and trapping license; it only exempts the license holder from needing to take a hunter education class. Landowners or lessees of farmland and their children living with them who

meet the requirements for hunting license exemptions also are exempt from needing an apprentice hunting license.

Youth Consolidated Hunting and Trapping License

The youth consolidated hunt/trap license, for youth 17 and younger, covers more than an annual resident hunting license. The license also covers the turkey license, game bird habitat stamp privilege, Indiana migratory waterfowl stamp privilege and all deer licenses. A **HIP validation number** is required to hunt migratory birds. Federal migratory bird stamps are not covered by the youth license (federal migratory bird stamps are not required for youths under 16 years old).

Youth hunting licenses are valid for that license year, even if the individual turns 18 during that year. In order to purchase a hunting license, anyone born after 1986 must successfully complete a **hunter education class** offered by the DNR. Non-resident youths must purchase a non-resident license. However, a non-resident under 18 years of age, who has a parent, grandparent or legal guardian who is a resident of Indiana, may purchase a resident license to hunt or trap in Indiana.

Youth Free Hunting Days

Youth free hunting days are Sept. 3-4 and Nov. 26-27. Any resident age 17 or younger on the date of the hunt, and accompanied by an adult of at least 18 years of age, can take any legal game in season during these youth free hunting days. The youth hunter does not have to possess a hunting license, HIP number or any state stamp privilege but must comply with all other hunting regulations. To hunt waterfowl, a Federal duck stamp is required for all persons 16 years or older.

The accompanying adult must be in close enough proximity to monitor and communicate with the youth hunter at all times and may assist the youth hunter, including calling, but may not carry a firearm or bow and arrow. The accompanying adult must possess a valid hunting license, unless exempted from needing a license.

Hunting Permits for Persons with Disabilities

The DNR issues permits to individuals with a disability that prevents them from taking wildlife under regular hunting regulations. The DNR may issue a special permit to an individual with a physical impairment resulting from an injury or disease, excluding impairment which is attributable to the normal aging process.

Special permits may allow those who cannot walk or have serious walking limitations to hunt from a vehicle. On state and federal lands, permit holders must obtain permission in advance from a property manager to gain vehicle access to lands or roads that are otherwise closed to vehicular traffic. Those who have a disability that prevents them from using a regular bow may be issued a permit to use a crossbow.

To apply for a hunter with a disability hunting permit, you must complete an [application form](#), and a licensed physician must complete the appropriate section on the form.

Rules governing the use of hunter with a disability permits and application forms are available on our website at [wildlife.IN.gov](#) or from the Division of Fish and Wildlife 402 W. Washington St., Room W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204; (317) 232-4080.

Harassment of Hunters, Trappers and Anglers

It is illegal to intentionally interfere with the legal taking of a game animal by another person on public land, or on private land without permission of the landowner.

Bag and Possession Limits

It is illegal to possess, ship, carry or transport more than two times the daily bag limit of a wild animal after the beginning of the second day of the season established to take that animal. It is illegal to take more than the daily bag limit of a wild animal in a calendar day.

You must maintain possession of any wild animal taken while you are hunting or returning to your vehicle after hunting, unless the animal is properly tagged. You cannot transport a wild animal for another

person, which is in excess of your bag limit, unless the animal has a tag signed by the person who killed the animal. The tag must include the person's address, total number and species of wild animals taken, and the date the wild animals were taken. When transporting pheasant, the head and head plumage of the bird must remain attached until processing. While in the field or traveling from the field to your home, migratory game birds in your possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification purposes.

DNR, Federal Property Rules

Hunting and trapping regulations may vary on some state or federal properties. Please check with the property manager for up-to-date regulations before hunting or trapping on state or federal areas.

Hunting from a Vehicle or Boat

Animals and birds may not be hunted from, by, or with the aid of any motor-driven vehicle or boat, except:

- By individuals with a Persons with Disabilities Hunting Permit that are authorized to hunt from a stationary vehicle.
- To check traps that are lawfully set and maintained.
- To hunt waterfowl from a motorboat if the boat is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or otherwise without motion except as provided by wind, water current or hand-operated oars or paddles.
- To hunt any animal (except furbearers) from a motorboat, provided the boat is not under power derived from the motor.

It is illegal to hunt furbearers from any boat.

It is illegal to ride an off-road vehicle with a loaded firearm unless the individual possesses a valid unlimited license to carry a handgun issued under IC 35-47-2; or is not required to possess a license to carry a handgun under IC 35-47-2-2. If the individual does not have a valid unlimited license to carry a handgun, the firearm must also be encased or made inoperative with a trigger lock.

Indiana Firearms Regulations

No license is required to possess a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloading firearm (including muzzleloading handguns). Hunters are exempt from needing a handgun license under IC 35-47-2-1.

With a valid unlimited license to carry a handgun, or an exemption under IC 35-47-2-2, a hunter may carry a handgun during any hunting season except on a DNR reservoir owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Falls of the Ohio State Park. Landowners may hunt with, or carry, a handgun on their own property without a handgun license.

Laser Sights

Laser sights are legal for all hunting.

Shell Capacity Limit

When hunting for migratory game birds and waterfowl (i.e., doves, ducks, geese, woodcock, etc.), it is illegal to use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun. There are no restrictions on magazine capacity for hunting of any other species.

Selling of Wild Game

Protected or regulated wild animals, live, dead, or the meat therefrom, cannot be sold, traded or bartered. (Exceptions: lawfully taken furbearers, squirrel tails, deer hides, antlers, hooves, and cured gamebird feathers may be sold).

Shooting Across Roads or Waters

It is illegal to hunt, shoot at or kill any animal or to shoot at any object from within, into, upon or across any public road. It is illegal to shoot across a body of water, except in the lawful pursuit of wildlife.

Silencers

It is illegal to possess a silencer while hunting.

Trespassing

It is illegal to hunt, trap, chase or retrieve game on private land without the consent of the landowner or tenant. Always ask permission before entering private property. A sample private landowner permission form is provided.

Wanton Waste

It is illegal to kill or cripple any wild animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal to include in your daily bag limit. It is illegal, however, to enter private property without permission to retrieve downed game. Before hunting, individuals must make sure they have permission to track game on land adjoining their hunting area.

Key Definitions

Baiting: Placing a solid or liquid product or pile of food in the field for consumption to attract wildlife to an area being hunted. Examples of baits include salt, mineral blocks, solid licks, grains, and liquids or powders spread on the ground for the purpose of being eaten by animals.

Furbearer: Indiana furbearing game animals include beaver, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, red fox and skunk.

Game bird: Indiana game birds include ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, wild turkey and mourning dove.

Hunt: To take any wild animal except by trapping.

Motor driven conveyance: An automobile, truck, tractor, combine, wagon, bus, off-road vehicle, ATV, recreational vehicle, motorcycle, moped, dune buggy, go-cart, motorboat, airplane, or other motorized conveyance capable of transporting an individual.

Possession limit: Two times the daily bag limit or the bag limit for the entire season depending on the species.

Take: To pursue, shoot, kill, trap, capture, collect, catch, or otherwise take or attempt to take.

see hunting.IN.gov

Upland and Small Game Hunting Regulations

2011 Upland and Small Game Hunting Seasons		
Upland Game	Hunting Dates	Bag Limit
Mourning Dove	Sep. 1 – Oct 16, 2011; Nov. 4 – Nov. 27, 2011	15 per day
Woodcock	Oct. 15 – Nov. 28, 2011	3 per day
Pheasant (cock only)	Nov. 4, 2011 – Dec. 18, 2011	2 per day
Quail*		
North of SR 26	Nov. 4, 2011 – Dec. 18, 2011	5 per day
South of SR 26	Nov. 4, 2011 – Jan. 15, 2012	8 per day
Ruffed Grouse**		
Privately Owned Lands	Oct. 1, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2011	2 per day
Publicly Owned Lands	Oct. 1, 2011 – Nov. 11, 2011	2 per day
Small Game	Hunting Dates	Bag Limit
Rabbit*	Nov. 4, 2011 – Feb. 15, 2012	5 per day
Rabbit (on DNR Property)	Oct. 1, 2011 – Jan. 31, 2012	5 per day
Squirrel (gray and fox)	Aug. 15, 2011 – Jan. 31, 2012	5 per day
Game turtles: (common snapping turtle, smooth softshell turtle, spiny softshell turtle only)	Year-round	25 per day
Restrictions: Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface.		
Game frogs: (bullfrog and green frog)	June 15 - Apr. 30	25
Restrictions: Frogs may be taken with a gig or spear with a head not more than three inches in width and a single row of tines, long bow and arrow, club, hands alone or pole or hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached. Firearms, used for frog hunting are restricted to a .22-caliber firearm loaded with bird shot only.		
Miscellaneous	Hunting Dates	Bag Limit
Crow	July 1, 2011 – Aug. 15, 2011	No Limit
	Dec. 13, 2011 – Mar. 1, 2012	
See hunting.IN.gov for all migratory game bird and waterfowl season information.		

*Hunting dates and bag limits for quail and rabbit are different on many DNR properties, see page 11 for a listing.

** Ruffed Grouse can only be hunted in designated counties, see page 11.

The possession limit on upland game and small game is two times the daily bag limit.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

Fluorescent orange must be worn when hunting the following upland and small game species during the following dates

Animal	Dates
Mourning Dove	None
Woodcock	Entire season
Pheasant	Entire season
Quail	Entire season
Ruffed Grouse	Entire season
Rabbit	Entire season
Squirrel	Nov. 4, 2011 - Jan. 31, 2012

To meet fluorescent orange ("hunter orange") clothing requirements, hunters must wear as an outer garment exposed at all times one or more of the following articles that are solid fluorescent orange in color: vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat, or cap. Minimal logos or patches are allowed. Camouflage-patterned fluorescent orange garments do not satisfy the requirement.

License Requirements for Indiana Upland and Small Game Seasons

Animal	License(s) Required
Mourning Dove	Hunting License, Game Bird Habitat, HIP number
Woodcock	Hunting License & HIP number
Pheasant	Hunting License & Game Bird Habitat
Quail	Hunting License & Game Bird Habitat
Ruffed Grouse	Hunting License & Game Bird Habitat
Rabbit	Hunting License
Squirrel	Hunting License
Crow	Hunting License
Turtle	Hunting or Fishing
Frog	Hunting or Fishing

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Rabbit

Cottontail rabbit season is from Nov. 4, 2011 to Feb. 15, 2012.

Rabbits may be hunted from Oct. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012 on the following DNR properties:

Atterbury, Blue Grass, Chinook, Crosley, Fairbanks Landing, Glendale, Hillenbrand, Hovey Lake, Jasper-Pulaski, Kankakee, Kingsbury, LaSalle, Minnehaha, Sugar Ridge, Splinter Ridge, Roush, Pigeon River, Tri-County, Wilbur Wright, Willow Slough and Winamac fish and wildlife areas and Brookville, Hardy, Mississinewa, Monroe, Patoka and Salamonie lakes.

It is illegal to remove a rabbit from a hole, den or tree hollow with the aid of a ferret or other small animal or other means.

Hunters must meet fluorescent orange clothing requirements while hunting rabbits.

It is illegal to hunt, take or possess swamp rabbits, which are an endangered species in Indiana.

Squirrel

Gray and fox squirrels may be taken with any equipment and ammunition during squirrel hunting season. Hunters must meet fluorescent orange clothing requirements while hunting squirrels from Nov. 4, 2011 through the end of the season.

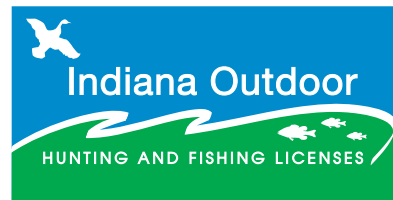
It is legal to hunt squirrels from a boat that is not under power derived from a motor. Fluorescent orange clothing is not required while hunting squirrels from a boat. Shooting into or disturbing leaf nests or squirrel dens is illegal at all times.

It is illegal to hunt flying squirrels, which are a protected species in Indiana. They cannot be possessed without a **special permit**.

Reptile/Amphibian

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated. Species of frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes, toads, or turtles on the state- or federal-endangered species list may not be taken at any time. Box turtles are protected and cannot be collected from the wild at any time. Species specified as game animals (see table on page 7) or as non-game and non-endangered may be collected from the wild with a hunting or fishing license.

License holders must obey season dates and bag limits, and use legal methods. An individual with a valid hunting or fishing license may take game frog and turtle species from a DNR property where hunting or fishing is authorized. Non-game reptiles and amphibians may not be taken from any DNR property. Indiana's native species list is online. The possession limit for non-endangered species is four, with the exception of the protected Eastern box turtle. Collected species may not be sold. Only legally collected amphibians or reptiles held for fewer than 30 days may be released at their original capture site if they have never been housed with another animal. Indiana residents older than 17 must possess a valid hunting or fishing license while collecting species of reptiles and amphibians from the wild. All non-resident adults and most non-resident youth must possess a non-resident annual hunting license while collecting reptiles and amphibians from the wild.



Game Bird Hunting Regulations

Pheasant

A valid hunting license and Indiana game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt pheasants. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be met while hunting pheasants. The bag limit for pheasants is two male (cock) pheasants.

It is illegal to shoot female pheasants (hens), except during put-and-take hunts in designated areas. If you take a pheasant, you must leave the head and head plumage attached while you are transporting the bird. There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for pheasant hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 4- to 6-size shot is recommended.

Put-and-Take

Pheasants are released for put-and-take hunting November 19-27, 2011, on Atterbury, Glendale, Pigeon River (west of Indiana 3), J.E. Roush, Tri-County, Willow Slough and Winamac FWAs. The cost for put-and-take hunts is \$15 per person and the bag limit is two birds. A hunter filling his/her limit in the put-and-take hunt may not take any more pheasants that day.

Hunters can reserve put-and-take pheasant hunts online from Sept. 1 until midnight on Nov. 26. Hunts are no longer available first-come, first-served at the property. Hunters can select the date, property, and property location for their hunt. Pheasant hunting season is extended on Atterbury and Glendale until Jan. 15. The bag limit is two birds of either sex. [See the Reserved Hunt Information web page for more information.](#)

Game Bird Area Pheasant Hunts

The Division of Fish and Wildlife conducts reserved pheasant hunts on game bird habitat areas in northern Indiana. [See the Reserved Hunt Information web page for more information.](#)

Quail

A valid hunting license and an Indiana game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt quail in Indiana. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be met while hunting quail. Quail hunting is divided into two regions – north and south. Indiana 26 is the dividing line. There are no equipment or ammunition restrictions for quail hunting. A 12- or 20-gauge shotgun loaded with 6- to 9-size shot is recommended.

Quail Hunting Rules Adjusted for DNR-owned Properties:

- In northwest Indiana, quail hunting will be allowed at Jasper-Pulaski, Willow Slough and Winamac FWAs from Nov. 4 through Nov. 27, with a daily bag limit of two birds. All other areas north of SR 26 will be open from Nov. 4 to Dec. 18, with a bag limit of five birds.
- In southwest Indiana, the quail season dates at Blue Grass, Chinook, Fairbanks Landing, Glendale, Goose Pond, Hillenbrand, Minnehaha, and Sugar Ridge FWAs, and Green Valley Public Fishing Area will remain Nov. 4 through Jan. 15, but hunting hours at these areas will be restricted to 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST from Dec. 15 through Jan. 15. The daily bag limit at all of these areas will be limited to four birds. All other areas south of SR 26 will be open from Nov. 4 to Jan. 15, with a bag limit of eight birds.

Ruffed Grouse

A valid hunting license and game bird habitat stamp privilege are required to hunt ruffed grouse. Hunter orange clothing requirements must be met while hunting grouse. Ruffed grouse may be hunted only in the following counties:

- Bartholomew
- Brown
- Clark
- Crawford
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Johnson
- LaGrange
- Lawrence
- Martin
- Monroe
- Morgan
- Ohio
- Orange
- Owen
- Perry
- Scott
- Steuben
- Switzerland
- Washington

Ruffed grouse may be hunted in these portions of the following counties:

- Dearborn (south of U.S. 50)
- Greene (east of U.S. 231)
- Jennings (south of U.S. 50)
- Putnam (south of U.S. 40)
- Ripley (south of U.S. 50)

Pigeon River FWA area is closed to ruffed grouse hunting.

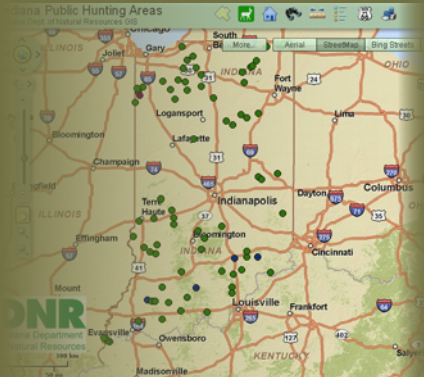
Ruffed grouse season dates are:

Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2011 on privately owned lands only

Oct. 1 - Nov. 11, 2011 on publicly owned lands

Where to Hunt

Indiana Public Hunting Areas



Use the Interactive Map
to plan your next hunting outing.

Search by:
Property
Species
Counties

Locate Address

[CLICK HERE](#)

- **Real world coordinates** corresponding to cursor
- **Get Driving directions**
- **Add text, graphics, and measurements** to the map
- **Export the map** as a jpeg

Map Disclaimer
These public hunting areas have been compiled by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. While all attempts are made to insure the correctness and suitability of information and to correct any errors brought to our attention, no representation or guarantee can be made as to the correctness or suitability of that information or any linked information presented, referenced, or implied. For any questions about these hunting areas, contact the property that manages it. **Please obey all property signs and verify boundaries with the property before you go hunting.

Find Address
Search
Draw and Measure

Mourning Dove and Woodcock

Mourning doves and woodcock are migratory birds. Please see the [Early Migratory Game Bird regulations](#) for additional information.

License and Stamp Requirements

Anyone hunting migratory game birds (ducks, coots, geese, mourning doves, snipe, sora rail or woodcock) must have an Indiana hunting license and a HIP registration number. A Game Bird Habitat Stamp privilege is also required for hunting doves. Resident landowners or lessees, hunting on farmed land they own or lease, are exempt from the state license requirement except that a HIP registration is required when hunting any migratory birds.

Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration

Licensed hunters in Indiana must register each year with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) before they hunt coots, doves, ducks, geese, snipe, sora rails or woodcock.

In order to register, hunters must visit the DNR Web site at www.wildlife.IN.gov or call 1-866-671-4499 and provide the information requested. The average time it takes to register is less than five minutes.

At the end of the registration, the hunter is given a validation number to record on his or her license. This number is valid from the date of registration through the close of the last 2011-2012 migratory bird hunting season. All migratory bird hunters including lifetime license holders, persons on military leave, or resident landowners and tenants (who hunt on their own land) must register with HIP.

Hunters need to register only once each season in each state in which they hunt, not each time they hunt. In addition to pro-

viding name and address during the call, hunters are asked questions designed to identify which species they hunted last year and, in some cases, the number of birds they harvested.

HIP is a joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies. The program improves harvest estimates for migratory game birds nationwide. Once the harvest information is gathered, the information is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states to ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are soundly based on scientific evidence.

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for mourning doves and woodcock are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

Shell Capacity Limit

It is illegal to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, doves, woodcock, sora rails or snipe) with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

Non-toxic Shot Requirements

Hunters are required to use approved non-toxic shot while hunting mourning doves at all Indiana DNR Fish and Wildlife Areas and Reservoir properties.

Hunting from a Boat

Migratory game birds may be hunted from a motorboat provided it is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or without motion other than that imparted by wind and current acting upon the hull, or due to hand-operated oars or paddles.

Identification Requirements

While in the field or traveling from the field to your home, migratory game birds (except for doves) in your possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification purposes.

Wanton Waste

All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field. You may retrieve dead or injured birds by hand or from a motorboat under power, but crippled birds may not be shot from a boat under power or in motion due to motor power.

Hunter Orange for Woodcock Hunting

Woodcock hunters must wear exposed at all times as an outer garment one or more of the following articles that is solid hunter orange in color: vest, coat, jacket, coveralls, hat or cap.

Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish-hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- From a sink box (a low, floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.

- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Baiting includes the placing of corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing or allowing hunters to take or attempt to take birds by the aid of bait or over a baited area. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait: \$15,000/6 months jail; placing bait: \$100,000/1 year jail.
- By the use of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

Tagging Requirements

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- hunter's signature
- hunter's address
- total number of birds involved by species
- dates such birds were killed

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

Shipping Migratory Birds

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with:

- the name and address of the person sending the birds,
- the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and
- the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Report Bird Bands

All migratory bird hunters are urged to report bird bands. During hunting seasons, operators are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Band information is critical to the management of bird populations, and assists biologists in providing optimum hunting opportunities. 24-hour toll-free hotline: 1-800-327-BAND (1-800-327-2263) or online at: www.reportband.gov



Turn in a Poacher

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Report Poaching

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