

Below are the comments received to the waterfowlcomments@pa.gov email on the proposed 2025-26 migratory game bird seasons.

1. Please keep the season dates similar to past years.

I am **NOT** in favor of extending duck season all the way through the month of January since that seems to be the rage recently for some folks from the southeast part of the state. Adding more days to the end of the season will take days away from the front end of the season when the majority of the calendar ducks are passing through the state and they are hoping mallards will show up in late January. With an already low mallard population and the fact that 50% or more of the mallards don't migrate it's not the best decision to extend the season to January 31. I live in the SW part of the state and with the freeze up in late December any mallards migrating just flew over my part of the state to open water in the southern states. I've kept pretty good records on duck harvest the last 15 years and my duck harvest in January drops like a rock. I also have access to a large private swamp in my county and I see plenty of Gadwall, Woodducks, Ringnecks and Pintails in early November when the season is out. So if the dates for the second split were Nov. 15 to Jan. 15 every year would be great. Long story short please don't cave into the guys in the Southeast part of the state by extending duck season all the way to January 31 in the South zone.

Also when you do your Waterfowl season dates to the public you may want to explain a bit more how you manage season dates for all ducks not just mallards and ducks migrate for different reasons such as amount of light in the day, food, weather and hunting pressure.

Thank You for your time,

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2. I do not feel that PGC should make any revisions to their duck season framework. In my opinion the framework that PGC has used the past several years has been spot on. Based on the social media pages and forums, this is an unpopular opinion. It seems like the majority of PA duck hunters favor revisions to the duck season dates, particularly regarding the start and end of the second split. I disagree. In my lifetime of PA hunting experience, the current framework coincides with the times of year that the majority of ducks are migrating through our state. As I'm sure that you are aware, this is also supported by scientific data.
3. My thoughts on the bag limits. Mallards should only be 2 a day and if you're going to change the limit to one goose maybe make it 60 days. The decline in geese I do not believe at all. Now the mallards are hurting bad. And it when they raise their young ones. Blue herons and mink are destroying them.

4. I was reviewing the proposed 2025/2026 waterfowl dates and the proposal shows we are reverting to the pre 2024/2025 scaup sequencing for the LEZ.
Can you please shed some light on the reasoning for this. Every other zone in PA has the 1 scaup/day at the beginning of the season dates. All of our nearby states have the 1 scaup/day at the beginning of the season dates.
There were thousands and thousands of scaup on Lake Erie right up to season close and the weeks following. The early season on Lake Erie is primarily a resident mallard hunt. I am extremely disappointed with this proposed change. What is driving it?
5. Get us some late season duck days...like right now, the cool ducks are here....a week maybe...adjust start and stop times by 15 mins at the least..its draconian..can't see to shoot in the morning and gotta quit in full light ..it really is moronic.
6. The Lake Erie dates should run through the 15th of January minimum. Also the 2 scaup daily bag should be the earlier part of the season. The lesser scaup are amongst the first to arrive and is our main opportunity of birds to harvest during the first part of the season. The latter part of the season most other species have moved in allowing for more opportunity at other birds besides scaup. I only see it fitting to run our 2 bird scaup season to begin the season dates. Thank you for your time.
7. It is with great consternation that I have to write to the game commission for the first time in my 30 plus years of hunting in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. What is the science behind reducing the Canada Goose limit from 1 to 3 in the AP zone? I live in the Lehigh Valley, where we have a proliferation of geese all year round. I have flocks of migrating birds flying over my house daily. The Delaware River, Lehigh River and local creeks are packed with flocked geese on a year round basis that doubles or triples during the migration. Some may say to take advantage of the early season, it is not an option for all of us. We are limited on the places that we can hunt, crops are still standing, archery deer season is occurring and some of us have sons in college. The winter season gives me time with my children that we can share in the blind and hunt geese and talk. Limiting people to one bird will decrease hunter involvement, most people will say that it is not worth it. You have to brush a blind, scout fields, set a spread and train a dog. All for ONE bird. This makes absolutely no sense, or change the boundary of the zone. The Lehigh Valley was actively impacted by H5N1 this winter in the Canada and Snow goose populations, allowing for more birds to migrate and rest in this area will only make the problem worse. This will directly impact our cattle and poultry farmers like it has in other states. The PGC has the ability to control this by expanding seasons and easing bag limits, but no, for some reason that has not been stated, they have chosen to go in the opposite direction. This may very well be my last season buying a PA hunting license, you do not work for the people who fund your jobs. I may have to do all of my hunting out of state. To the attached legislative offices, please

use the full weight of your position to change the decision makers at the PGC and return stability to traditional hunting in Pennsylvania. Please feel free to call with any questions. If you want to count geese, come sit in my driveway.

8. The duck club would like the same season for the Lake Erie zone and the bills in the last 20 days again as last year.
Northwest PA Duck Hunters Association
9. Why is the Pymatuning zone being proposed to be lowered to 1 goose a day for the entire season length? There are more geese around this year than I have seen in the last 4 that I lived here. Also I think your boundaries are in need of some kind of adjustment. The same geese that I am looking at and trying to hunt are hatched and raised on one side of rt. 358 and constantly cross over several times a day. I think you have the zone too big.
10. Was the state consulted about our population of birds the HPAI H5N1 and given a plan to limit the impact on waterfowl population? Was PA agriculture consulted about the impact of fly over feces from infected waterfowl on poultry and cattle populations? How is the land area for the AP zone determined, when was the last revision? Did the PGC advocate to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife for extended seasons and limits, if so can you provide a link to those documents?
11. I have a question for this coming hunting season. The hunting barrier for the atlantic population for waterfowl hunting is very hard to see on a map. I looked on the website and it doesn't seem to have any outlines or anything. Would you be able to help me out with explaining what counties and where it goes through the state. I saw it states the roads but that is very hard to find on a map.
12. Hi this is [REDACTED] the goose numbers are not down the duck numbers are not down and snow goose are not down where I am if possible keep the September season the same I had farmers complaining and asking me to hunt in October for the resident geese were destroying his bean field and the ap season should be started in October keep it the 3 geese a day and run till February 29 ducks should be the same or get rid of ap and make it all rp zone it would be nice to shot cans and ducks over snow spread and unplugged guns for September and for snow goose Conservation because what is the difference between ny and pa nothing really the birds are getting harder to hunt and right now there is so many geese and ducks in my area farmer are calling me to shoot them and I can't I am in annville pa area all the quarrys are holding a big number of birds and the creeks and if there was a problem with low numbers why does ny allow unplugged guns or 6 shots and if you want to go back to 1 goose a day in ap I think you are going to Lose out on people buying license and if you were to take away ap zone and

make it all rp zone make limit 3 and it would also be nice to change shooting hours and make them a bit later there was many days were I had to pack up at 430 and still had plenty of daylight to identify birds if it was me I like the snow goose Conservation times but like I would pack up 430 birds would not show till 515 or 530 but thank you even though it probably won't change cant say I didn't try

13. I'm extremely displeased with the proposed Atlantic population goose season. Me, along with many other hunters will not bother to hunt 30 days with 1 goose. Leases will be dropped and we will hunt out of state.

This is very upsetting. I have a young daughter that I want to pass our waterfowl hunting tradition down to. Every hunt last year we had our kids out (even though we had such a lousy short season). Now they might as well stay home and watch tv. Such a shame. I hope you reconsider. Pa won't be getting my money this year.

14. I see your proposed season length and bag limits for next hunting season. I believe the commission is so far in the wrong for a few reasons.

I have been a goose hunter for 16 years going out with buddies and gathering decoys and property to hunt. After this past season I am looking into getting my guides license and taking new hunters out after these birds. I live and hunt in bucks county and harvested close to 30 geese this past season. This past year with the cold fronts that came through around Christmas and new years brought in more geese than our normal amounts of birds. I ended up getting graced and taking two banded geese this year from Kangirsuk, Quebec. I know these two birds are not what we normally see. However, normally the cold fronts hit after the season has ended and then we start to see more geese showing up.

I believe your survey studies are not done at the right times of year or in the right locations. In bucks county we have numerous lakes and ponds that have resident birds that leave to molt around the September season but show back up for the residents seasons. These birds number in the thousands. With having six guys hunt every day you wouldn't be able to put a dent in the population of those birds. I do volunteer work at lakenockamixon which has to get depredation permits due to having too many geese. There are several companies in this area of the state that are only scaring geese off properties. With having a 30 day season and a 1 bird a day limit makes goose hunting worthless. While it may lead to better broods for the following season, a lot of these birds will end up being killed illegally due to golf courses and homeowners trying to rid them from their lawns. If you are looking to see larger numbers of geese in your studies, you have to look in these areas of bucks county. I know it's not the whole of the AP zone, however it's hard to believe the state when I goose hunting on a Saturday morning and see 4-10 thousand birds flying off of a single water authority reservoir.

Reducing the season to only 30 days as well as making the limit 1 bird is the worst decision to make. If anything the daily limit should be increased in this area of the state due to rampant overpopulation and your studies need to be conducted by either bird hunters or at the bare minimum someone who is not opposed to goose hunting and done where the geese live. I am happy to give waypoints of where these birds can be found year round by the thousand plus flocks.

With making the daily limit 1, the amount of birds killed will likely stay the same however the amount of poaching will increase substantially. This year for instance I took one shot aiming at 1 bird and dropped two. If the limit is only 1 I will have been over the limit with a single trigger pull. The amount of hunters who spend thousands on gear and hours setting up prior to legal light is quite high. Now if you remove their ability to lawfully take game and make an adequate use of their time, they will result to hiding their kills.

I know this is a run on email/rant, however it kills me to see the number of birds we do and get told by Harrisburg that "the birds aren't here and we need to reduce limits and seasons." If the state actually cares about Canada geese and increasing their population then they would work to add habitat. The answer is not reducing the number of huntable days or lower limits. The state should have programs for those who live on lakes, ponds, and streams to receive nesting boxes/structure to ensure safety to nesting pairs. That goes for ducks as well. The state puts out too few wood duck boxes and mallard nests. It should be an offering to those on waterfowl land to help the conservation of the birds we love. I would gladly sign up for programs like that and I would hope that be what my license fees go to doing, not reducing and limiting my hunting experience.

With limiting the seasons, Sundays are already closed to waterfowl hunting. Even the three Sundays you can deer hunt, you're not allowed to goose hunt or duck hunt. Before any talk of shortening a season, Sunday hunting should be made legal for those who work Monday to Friday to pay bills and can only hunt one day out of the week.

In closing, gather more data from hunters and do research for bird counts during seasons when they're actually here. Don't just rely on August studies.

15. How comes in the Atlantic population for the extended season the goose limit is going back to 1? What's the reasoning behind that.
16. Please do not do this! Limits of less than three geese a day make it a total waste of time to get up early, set up decoys or even bother going out hunting at all. Shorter seasons and unreasonable bag limits are just a slap in the face to your constituents. I live in Bucks county and there are geese everywhere I look, but you say the numbers are low? That is laughable. I will note that we saw even more geese at the end of the season, so

maybe the season should be extended, but not shortened. If these changes are passed I will pass on buying waterfowl stamps like I did in the past years when limits were too low.

17. Concerning the AP Canada goose season as a hunter in my 31st season I have the following comments:

Just close the entire flyway for a season. That gives them a full nesting season to rebound with no hunter mortality. Then open it with a two bird limit, and keep the limit there indefinitely. The three bird limit is just too liberal and it seems like it may have been part of the decline.

Or if it is set at one bird with the 30 day season then make sure all other states in the flyway are just as restrictive.

18. Ref: Resident Canada Geese, Western PA Counties

I see the proposed regular season isn't slated to open until 10/25/25 (late october again). Why so late?

Why not open earlier to give hunters more opportunity in the fall and when the fields begin to be harvested. This provides more local areas to hunt as compared to the Sept season where fields are still too high to set decoys. If overharvesting is a concern, either reduce the daily limit or shorten the back end of the season in February.

Opening at the end of October really limits the opportunity for us hunters that like to participate in a variety of different types of hunting. At the end of October, archery season is really starting to ramp up with anticipation of the rut, fall turkey is soon to begin, regular small game (pheasants) gets started, etc. Everything is all at once!

I'm in my mid-50's, been hunting since I was able to tag along with my dad. I remember when ducks and geese would come in on the same day, the second Saturday of October. We'd be able to hunt waterfowl, most of October until small game and fall turkey came in. Then we could transition to that and get to enjoy the opportunity to hunt a variety of species throughout the Fall. Today, we have to choose what we want to hunt within a small window and before you know it, it is rifle bear/deer. We don't have the opportunity to hunt geese for a couple weekends, hunt small game for a couple weekends, hunt fall turkey a weekend or two and also hunt the rut. Everything is all at once.

These are my comments. Thanks for the ability to share.

19. Once again, I would like to see a designated teal season in mid to late September. Also, a statewide standard for two a day scaup limits being the latter dates for each zone.

Having the limit at one in the Erie zone during the last 20 days of the season will keep me from even trying to get a blind location on the park property. A one goose per day in the Pymatuning Zone needs an in-depth explanation. When most geese leave the Geneva game lands then cross I79 to feed, then on other days fly south or west why 3 a day or 1 a day on the same flock based on flight direction? If the hunting quality at the Pymatuning controlled goose fields has declined (yes it has) how will the zone restriction help anything? Another suggestion is the early season three a day wood duck limits. Our local wood ducks are getting decimated do to over harvesting by sky busters who will move on to hunt other game after the first week. Three a day should not mean three in hand and shoot unlimited birds to sort them later. A two bird limit the first week in each zone seems to make more sense and also would need increased enforcement in certain areas (Pymatuning Duck areas come to mind as well as the Geneva game lands).

That's it from here. Otherwise, the proposal is fine just why certain changes and some tighter restrictions.

20. Hi I can tell you there is more geese around then ever seen before and with avian fly want to kill the snow geese but every thing can get it so in my opinion get rid of the September season and open it in October 1 to march as of today I have farmes in and around lebanon county calling to shoot cans I keep telling them they are not open the thing is the migration is off keeps getting later and later and also you have all the other states are shooting migrating geese open ducks October to march make it 3 4 5 geese cans or make ap rp zone make the duck season all the state Not north and south like it was back in the day and the migration is mostly at night so how may geese don't get shoot at but something got to change need to do more research and there are little geese already in tioga country because the migrating geese are staying too you need people shooting at them to keep them moving my dad just came down from tioga county and he said he has never seen so many geese up there and on the way to annville and when you get around hershey area the stupid late season 743 west and 81 north there is no hunting where there needs to be so it is just Creating more problems and unplugged guns for snow geese but keep the 3 shell limits for ducks and cans or make it just for cans 4 shells there is a problem but it probably won't be Addressed and yes going to have low numbers here and there one year low next high low high low high will see what happens I keep telling myself I am going to give this up if things don't change just like the 1 week goose season that was the stupidest thing ever there was people hunting in my area from Allentown and hamburg and all over like they didn't have geese in there area and again most places are not letting hunting so no matter what there will be birds and cans need to be open when they start planting and when they take of the first crop

21. Dear Commissioners,

The Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust are submitting a letter (attached) requesting to have some amendments to the proposed duck season implemented.

Sincerely,

PFHT Board of Directors

22. To Whom it may concern, I've been hunting geese for years, in past seasons the bag limit was reduced to one, my group didn't hunt them. Waste of time setting up 15 dozen decoys for one goose, 3 geese limit is fair since geese in any area of Pa depends on weather.
23. Could you please provide me with more details on where I could find the data that shows how many eggs are getting shaken in Pennsylvania and the location of the nest? Also could you provide a clear yes or no answer on if you're aloud to shovel off a field/ use a tarp to simulate open water on a frozen lake?
24. I watched the livestream presentation today. It was stated that there are only two major changes. Pintails and Atlantic population zone goose. However the proposed limits indicate the area surrounding Pymatuning has been reduced from 3 geese per day to 1 goose per day. Why is this changing and why aren't you saying 3 major changes and including Pymatuning in the discussion?
25. Hi. I looked at the proposed seasons and have comments on a few things. NW duck zone- why can't you start the season a week later and end the first split the first week in December. This is usually peak migration time for that zone and starting a week later will only benefit as a lot of wood ducks haven't even arrived here yet plus it gives another week separation from the youth day. Also the 2 mallard limit was working and we were seeing more mallards Second comment is the pmy zone for geese- why is there an early season at all in that zone??? Is it a typo or is it one bird a day for the whole season? If so what is the reasoning when they are allowed to continue to oil eggs and disturb nests. This past seasons we did really well on geese starting in November and shot quite a few James bay geese as well - the daily bag limit should be reduced to 2 not 1 if a reduction is really needed but how many geese are actually harvested in that zone. I talked to many people hunting that area and the harvest numbers cant be that high.
26. I would like to know why with sort of sense you would decide to cut the Atlantic population zones daily bag limit back to 1 bird per day. Furthermore you still keep our season at 30 days when the majority of birds don't arrive until after your season dates have passed. If I go 30 miles to the west however I can hunt for 80 days and kill 5 birds per day. They are the same birds why in gods name does 30 miles separation create such drastic differences in season dates and bag limits. I already fully beleive that the game commission as a whole shoulda be torn down to nothing and rebuilt as a agency that actually does their jobs effectively rather then wasting my license fees and tax dollars

and this just proves my point even more. All you people complain about wanting to get youths involved in the sport of hunting and growing new stewards of the land but then you go and make garbage proposals like this that make it 100% unappealing for a new hunter to try out waterfowl hunting. 3 birds a day in a 30 day season was hard enough of a pill to swallow back down to 1 bird a day in a 30 day season get off your power trip and allow people to enjoy the wildlife that they have paid for you charge more and more every year for licenses and license holders seem to get less and less rights from that investment every year.

27. Can you provide some insight as to why the limit is proposed to be 1 goose. Also can you provide some clarification that I can provide to my sportsman club about goose eggs being destroyed. I have repeatedly heard stories about the parks department spraying the eggs with an oil. Hard to believe but I am familiar with the goose droppings that is found around the park and could understand if the park folks want geese reduced. I have hunted the area for years and my thought was the reduction in numbers is associated with the expansion of the eagle population. I took photos this year of a large group of geese on the ice near the spillway with no less than 5 or 6 eagles around them. Again any insight is appreciated.
28. Why... I don't understand why you all are doing this shit to us. Goose hunters you all give us our 3 geese a day and now you want to take it back why...it doesn't pay for us hunters to go out and pay all this money for hunting licenses and get up in the morning and go out and set up our 20 some dozen of decoys, just to kill one damn goose. There wasn't that many killed this year 2024. The 1st season to me is too early fields still have corn. And if you don't have a pond we'll not be hunting. 1st open season needs to be moved up to later to October. Let us keep our 3 a day limit. For once, these birds are overwelled around here. Thank you [REDACTED] goose hunters Northampton PA area
29. The regular duck season in my opinion should run until the end of January. If anything cut days from the front end.
30. I was unable to attend the meeting at Middle Creek this past weekend, but wanted to share some concerns with the current setting of our duck season. I am unfortunately apart of the group who passionately supports lengthening our season to yield better results during the season. I'm well aware the federal government sets the guidelines, but then allows the state to set seasons within their guidelines. Over the past decade of my duck hunting career, I've noticed the season gradually getting less productive until the last weekend when our season is ending and even left trail cams up and saw a large increase in birds after the season closed. I feel that the simplest solution would be to close duck season during our statewide firearms season as there are no other seasons open (with the exception of bear where permitted and coyote). This should be a glaring area to improve upon especially sighting the obvious safety concerns. I'm aware there's no data to support any incidents have occurred but it would only take one until there is a

demand for a solution. I understand that in this case the hunters are “heard” but I truly doubt the necessary changes to the season will be made. Please, consider changing the duck season dates to allow our hunters to have a more successful season so that we may hunt our state when the ducks are actually migrating. Thank you for your time.

31. Here’s my proposal for South Zone Ducks and AP Zone Geese in Lancaster County

South Zone Ducks

October 11 thru 18

This includes 2 Saturdays and Columbus Day Holiday and equals 7 shooting days.

2nd segment

November 25 thru January 24

This includes 9 Saturdays and Turkey Day, Christmas, New Year and MLK Holidays. 53 shooting days.

AP Zone Geese

November 25 thru November 28

Includes Turkey Day 4 shooting days.

2nd segment

December 26 thru January 24

This includes 5 Saturdays, Christmas Weekend, New Year and MLK holidays. 26 shooting days.

This is a serious compromise for any reasonable Waterfowl Biologist in charge of setting season dates.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

32. Hello, My name is [REDACTED]. I am a 16 year old hunter in Pennsylvania. I was on the way to our field to get our trailer for snow goose hunting and saw the article about the goose limit may be changing to 1 bird per person. I feel you should not change the limit it will take the fun out of it, to sit there for 8 hours and then to shoot just 1 bird and leave? Thats not fun, But waiting 8 hours and watching all the birds fly over and trying to shoot 3 per person is much more fun then 1. Hunting is also fun with your buddies, but if you can only shoot 1 bird per person whats the reason of even going out then? It seems very useless to change the limit for the 25-26 season. As a 16 year old who has been legally hunting for 4 years i love to waterfowl hunt and getting more then 1 bird. I like the adrenaline when the birds are flying in to land and they get close enough there in your face. I have been hunting with my grandpa at the same field ever since i was 5 or 6. I am now 16 as mentioned before, He is the one who got me into waterfowl. I love it honestly, but please keep the limit 3 per person. It makes it so much more fun. There has been many laughs shared between me, my grandpa, and our

buddies when we hunt, but if the limit is changed to 1 we wont get to share those laughs and see each other because well be done by the afternoon. Hunting with friends or friends who are like family is much more fun when you can actually shoot more then 1 per person. Sometimes hunting is more than about keeping the population down or trying to bring food home. Its also about who you hunt with. I know me being 16 may not want to you to think about how i feel, but some kids have been hunting there whole life. Now i can understand the change with the bird flu going around, but still itll take the fun out of it. I also dont agree with the September season, it should be 5 per person per day. 8 is just to much because 2 people who live in the same household will be bringing back 16 birds. That is just to much. You cant make the limit that high or that low that is why we dont have enough birds. 8 is just to much. Id be much better at 5, bringing 10 home seems a little more reasonable than 16. You also have to take in the fact you have illegal hunters, the bird flu, aircraft. They also kill birds so having someone bring home 8 birds is absurd. I think if you kept the limit at a steady 3-5 per person it would be better then lower than 3 and higher than 5, 3-5 is a pretty solid number.

33. Good morning

I am asking that you please consider the consequences of the actions that killing these amazing birds causes. There are no absolutes. There is a war against wildlife and we talk about how many, but we never know all the facts.

So many birds don't make it, illness, injuries, age, accidents, road kills and poachers.

These birds are trying to live and survive in a world being overrun by "humans".

Please be the change to make a difference for these birds and for all life...

Thank you for your time

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bentonville, Va. 22610

34. Hi my name is [REDACTED]. i was told to email you regarding the upcoming waterfowl season dates for 2025-2026. The guys on facebook on pa waterfowl hunters said to email you and you would listen and respond back so i am doing so. [REDACTED] recently posted on the facebook page about the season dates pertaining to the ap goose season aswell as the south zone for ducks. these where his proposed dates for the ap goose

AP Goose Season Dates

November 25 thru November 28

Includes Turkey Day, equals 4 shooting days.

December 26 thru January 24 2026

Includes Christmas weekend, New Years, MLK and 5 Saturdays

i believe these are fantastic dates for the ap since we only have 30 days this year. i feel we do not need as many days in november especially with only a one bird limit. most guys only hunt thanksgiving day and black friday that week. and some are able to get off work early weds to hunt the evening. the other days i don't feel are near as useful to the average hunter with a 9 to five job. for the dec- jan split i believe his dates are spot on. i think having christmas day included in the season is worthless. most hunters are not hunting that day. starting the day after is when most hunters begin there christmas vacation which makes a-lot more sense to start the day after christmas . also i feel like running the season to the 24 of January is a good compromise for you studies and the thoughts of most avid waterfowl hunters to run the season later. i also agree with his south zone duck dates as well.

South Zone Ducks

October 11 thru October 18

Includes 2 Saturdays and Columbus day, equals 7 shooting days November 25 thru January 24 2026 Includes Turkey Day, Christmas, New Year, MLK Day, along with 9 Saturdays, equals 53 shooting days.

I don't have much to say about these dates as i agree with them and would love to see the duck season go about a week longer. I hope you are able to read this and take my comments serious. i have no interest in talking about bag limits as i know they are set federally and it is out of ur hands for now. I have been an avid waterfowl hunter for well over 20 years and i travel out west to North dakota every fall for to self guide for a week. i know im not a biologist but as an avid hunter i do notice bird patterns in the migration and such. i usually know more about waterfowl than the average hunter does. i also think it would be cool if maybe through out the year you reach out to some avid waterfowl hunters and try to go hunt with them and listen to what they have to say in the blind while hunting pertaining the states laws. might be a good way to see the hunter aspects of it. i mean we have seven leases and have live stream cameras on 6 ponds over two counties. so i guess in some ways we do our own research. please feel free to reach out or call to talk more about these things. i truly hope you will take email serious and not just another hunter complaint about something. thank you for you time.



To whom it concerns,

We, the members of the Pennsylvania Falconry and Hawk Trust (PFHT), are respectfully requesting an amendment to the Migratory Bird Hunting Falconry Seasons. The 2024-25 Seasons can be found at this website.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/30/2024-19420/migratory-bird-hunting-2024-25-seasons-for-certain-migratory-game-birds>

We propose eliminating the early falconry duck season and expanding the late falconry season so it can start when the late regular duck season is over. We are not requesting season modifications for any other migratory game bird. See table below for current and proposed seasons.

Current 2024-25 Duck Hunting Seasons

Zone	Early Regular	Early Falconry	Late Regular	Late Falconry
North Zone	Oct. 12-26	Oct. 28-Nov. 18	Nov. 19-Jan. 11	Feb. 8-Mar.10
South Zone	Oct. 12-19	Oct. 21-Nov. 18	Nov. 19-Jan. 18	Feb. 15-Mar.10
Northwest Zone	Oct. 12-Nov. 29	Nov. 30-Dec. 21	Dec. 23-Jan. 11	Feb. 10-Mar.10
Lake Erie Zone	-	-	Nov. 4-Jan. 11	Jan. 17-Mar. 10

Proposed Duck Hunting Seasons*

Zone	Early Regular	Late Regular	Falconry
North Zone	Oct. 12-26	Nov. 19-Jan. 11	Jan. 14-Mar. 10
South Zone	Oct. 12-19	Nov. 19-Jan. 18	Jan 19-Mar. 10
Northwest Zone	Oct. 12-Nov. 29	Dec. 23-Jan. 11	Jan. 14-Mar. 10
Lake Erie Zone	-	Nov. 4-Jan. 11	Jan. 16-Mar. 10

*Adjust for actual new season dates so falconry season picks up after the late regular season

*See Appendix A for exposure day calculations.

Respectfully,

The Board and Members of the PFHT

Fran Gray – President

Brett Coryell – Eastern Director

Brennan Herr – Vice President

Tom Beaver – Treasurer/Secretary

Alix Buzard – Western Director

Jade Chen – Editor

JP Holcomb – Central Director

Maggie Rash - Liaison Officer

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Appendix A - Season Exposure Days Calculations

Early Regular			Late Regular			Falconry					
Zone	Start	Finish	Total Days minus Sundays	Start	Finish	Total Days minus Sundays	Start	Finish	Total Days minus Sundays	Youth/Military not in falconry season	Total Exposure Days
North Zone	10/12/2024	10/26/2024	12	11/19/2024	1/11/2025	46	1/14/2025	3/10/2025	47	2	107
South Zone	10/12/2024	10/19/2024	6	11/19/2024	1/18/2025	52	1/19/2025	3/10/2025	42	2	102
Northwest Zone	10/12/2024	11/29/2024	41	12/23/2024	1/11/2025	17	1/14/2025	3/10/2025	47	2	107
Lake Erie Zone				11/4/2024	1/11/2025	60	1/16/2025	3/10/2025	45	2	107