

Waterfowl Dates and Information				
Species	Dates (Inclusive) and Zones	Hours	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Teal (early season)	6–14 Sept 2025 (all zones)	Sunrise to Sunset	6	18
Rail (Sora & Virginia only)	6 Sept–14 Nov 2025 (statewide)		25	75
Snipe (Wilson's snipe)	6 Sept–21 Dec 2025 (statewide)		8	24
Canada Geese (early season)	1–15 Sep 2025 (North and Central)	Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons	5	15
	1–15 Sep 2025 (South Central and South)		2	6
Youth Waterfowl	11–12 Oct 2025 (North)		Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons	Same as during regular duck, goose, and coot seasons
	18–19 Oct 2025 (Central)			
	8–9 Nov 2025 (South Central)			
	15–16 Nov 2025 (South)			
Ducks (but see Scaup below)	18 Oct–16 Dec 2025 (North)		6	18
	25 Oct–23 Dec 2025 (Central)			
	15 Nov 2025–13 Jan 2026 (South Central)			
	29 Nov 2025–27 Jan 2026 (South)			
Mergansers	Same as ducks		5	15
Coots	Same as ducks		15	45
Scaup (Bluebills)	18 Oct–1 Dec 2025 and 2 Dec–16 Dec 2025 (North)	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to sunset	1st Segment: 2/day	1st Segment: 6
	25 Oct–8 Dec 2025 and 9–23 Dec 2025 (Central)		2nd Segment: 1/day	2nd Segment: 3
	15 Nov–29 Dec 2025 and 30 Dec 2025–13 Jan 2026 (South Central)		3	9
	29 Nov 2025–12 Jan 2026 and 13–27 Jan 2026 (South)			
Canada Geese	18 Oct 2025–15 Jan 2026 (North)		20	Unlimited
	25 Oct 2025–2 Nov 2025 and 12 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (Central)			
	15 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (South Central)			
	29 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (South)			
Light Geese (Snow/Ross's Geese)	18 Oct 2025–15 Jan 2026 (North)		1	3
	25 Oct 2025–31 Jan 2026 (Central)			
	15 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (South Central)			
	29 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (South)			
Brant	Same as light geese		2	6
White-fronted Geese (Specklebellies)	20 Oct 2025–15 Jan 2026 (North)			
	5 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (Central)			
	15 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (South Central)			
	29 Nov 2025–31 Jan 2026 (South)			
Conservation Order Light Geese (Snow/Ross's Geese)	16 Jan–30 Apr 2026 (North)	$\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sunset	Unlimited	Unlimited
	1 Feb–30 Apr 2026 (Central, South Central and South)			



Basic daily limit is 6 ducks of any species. However, daily limit can consist of no more than the following: 4 mallards (of which no more than 2 can be hen mallards), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaups for the first 45 days in each zone, 1 scaup for the last 15 days in each zone, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 3 pintails and 1 mottled duck. Possession limit for ducks is three times the daily limit by species and sex. Mergansers do not count toward the daily limit of ducks. The daily limit is 5 mergansers, but only 2 can be hooded mergansers. Please refer to the Hunting & Trapping Regulations Digest for a complete listing of species, dates and limits. Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois DNR-ORC-HY25-26 • 150,000 • 07/25

2025–2026 Illinois Digest of HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS

Deer and Turkey Season Dates and Limits						
Season	Dates (Inclusive)			Hours	Limit	
Archery Deer (Counties with firearm season and west of Route 47 in Kane County)	1 Oct–20 Nov and 24 Nov–3 Dec 2025 and 8 Dec 2025–18 Jan 2026			½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	One deer per archery permit	
Archery Deer (Cook, DuPage, Lake and Kane [east of route 47] Counties)	1 Oct 2025–18 Jan 2026				One deer per archery permit	
Youth Firearm Deer	11–13 Oct 2025				One deer	
Firearm Deer	21–23 Nov and 4–7 Dec 2025				One deer per firearm permit	
Muzzleloader Deer	12–14 Dec 2025				One deer per muzzleloader permit	
Special CWD Deer	1–4 Jan and 16–18 Jan 2026				One deer per valid permit	
Late Winter Antlerless Deer	1–4 Jan and 16–18 Jan 2026				One antlerless-only deer per valid permit	
Youth Turkey (1 permit per year)	28–29 Mar and 4–5 Apr 2026			½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One tom, jake or bearded hen per permit, counts toward maximum of 3 spring permits	
Spring Turkey (shotgun and archery)	Segment	North	South	½ hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.	One tom, jake or bearded hen per permit, maximum of 3 spring permits	
	1	13–17 Apr	6–10 Apr			
	2	18–23 Apr	11–16 Apr			
	3	24–29 Apr	17–22 Apr			
	4	30 Apr–6 May	23–29 Apr			
	5	7–14 May	30 Apr–7 May			
Fall Turkey (Shotgun)	18–26 Oct 2025			½ hour before sunrise to sunset	One either–sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2 fall turkey shotgun permits	
Fall Turkey (Archery)	1 Oct 2025–18 Jan 2026 (Closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting)			½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	One either–sex turkey per permit, maximum of 2 fall turkey archery permits	
Upland and Small Game Season Dates and Limits Information						
Species	Dates (Inclusive)			Hours	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Squirrels (gray and fox)	1 Aug 2025–15 Feb 2026 (Closed during firearm deer season in counties open to firearm deer hunting)			½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	5	10
Doves (mourning & white-winged)	1 Sep–14 Nov and 26 Dec 2025–9 Jan 2026			Sunrise to Sunset	15	45
Woodcock	18 Oct–1 Dec 2025			Sunrise to Sunset	3	9
Crow	28 Oct 2025–28 Feb 2026			½ hour before sunrise to sunset	No Limit	No Limit
Pheasant (males only)	1 Nov 2025–8 Jan 2026 (North zone) 1 Nov 2025–15 Jan 2026 (South zone)			Sunrise to Sunset	2	6
Quail (Bobwhite)	Same as Pheasants				8	20
Hungarian Partridge	Same as Pheasants & Quail				2	6
Rabbits (cottontail and swamp)	1 Nov 2025–15 Feb 2026				4	10

Please refer to the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for complete species seasons, limits, and specific regulations.

2025-2026 Hunting Timeline

Animal	25-Aug	25-Sep	25-Oct	25-Nov	25-Dec	26-Jan	26-Feb	26-Mar	26-Apr	26-May	26-Jun	26-Jul
Coyote/Striped Skunk				Closed 21-23	Closed 4-7							
Woodchuck				Closed 21-23	Closed 4-7			Ends 31			Opens 1	
Squirrels	Opens 1			Closed 21-23	Closed 4-7		Ends 15					
Doves		See card front for specific dates										
Canada Geese		See card back for specific dates										
Snipe (Wilson's Snipe)		Opens 6			Ends 21							
Rails		Opens 6		Ends 14								
Teal		6-14										
Deer			See card front for specific dates									
Turkey			See card front for specific dates					See card front for specific dates				
Ducks/Mergansers/Coots			See card back for specific dates									
Light Geese/Brant			See card back for specific dates									
White-fronted Geese			See card back for specific dates									
Crow			Opens 28				Ends 28					
Woodcock			Opens 18		Ends 1							
Rabbits				Opens 1			Ends 15					
Pheasant/Quail/Partridge				Opens 1		Ends 8 (N) Ends 15 (S)						
Bobcat/Red Fox*/Opossum/ Raccoon				Opens 10 Closed 21-23	Closed 4-7		Ends 15					
Conservation Order Light Geese						See card back for specific dates						

Trapping Timeline

Woodchuck		Ends 30									Opens 1	
Badger/Bobcat/Coyote/ Red Fox*/Mink/Muskrat/ Opossum/Raccoon Striped Skunk/Weasels				Opens 10			Ends 15					
Beaver/River Otter				Opens 10				Ends 31				

***Effective immediately, gray fox hunting and trapping seasons are closed. See pg. 45 in the full Hunting & Trapping Regulations Digest for more information.**