



KENTUCKY HUNTING GUIDE for WATERFOWL

Regulations Summary • NOVEMBER 2023 – MARCH 2024

Take Someone Hunting!

FISH & WILDLIFE:
1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov
Report Game Violations:
1-800-25-ALERT



Gianna Roth, 16, from Kevil, won the 2023 Kentucky Junior Duck Stamp Contest with her drawing of a pintail.

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Serving People, Conserving Fish & Wildlife

STOP THE SPREAD OF BIRD FLU

Waterfowl hunters should take some basic precautions to help prevent the spread of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), commonly known as bird flu. The disease, which can be carried by migrating waterfowl, has been found in Kentucky. It can sicken or kill other birds, including chickens.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) considers the risk of human infection as low. Still, if you experience flu-like symptoms after handling birds, let your healthcare provider know.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends some simple steps to help stop the spread of this disease.



FIELD DRESS BIRDS OUTSIDE OR IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA

Infected birds spread the virus through saliva, mucous and feces. Wear gloves when processing birds and avoid handling entrails. **Don't feed carcasses to your dog or let your dog handle a bird beyond carrying it back to you.** Breast-ing out your birds is the safest way to prepare your ducks and geese. Remember that if you transport waterfowl, each bird must retain a wing or head for identification purposes.

KEEP IT CLEAN

You can transmit the disease by handling carcasses. Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game. Wash hands with soap and warm water after handling wild birds. Disinfect any surfaces (knives, equipment and tables) that contact dead birds. Use dedicated tools for cleaning game.

COOK UNTIL DONE

Thoroughly cook all game to an internal temperature of 165 degrees. Properly cooked game is safe to eat.

PROTECT YOUR DOMESTIC BIRDS

You can pass the disease onto your chickens and domestic birds, so don't wear your hunting clothes and boots around your domestic birds. If you suspect avian influenza in your domestic or farm birds, call the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Sick Bird Hotline: 866-536-7593.

DISPOSE OF CARCASSES PROPERLY

Double bag carcasses for pickup in your garbage or bury them deeply enough that animals will not dig them up.

REPORT CLUSTERS OF BIRD CARCASSES OR WATERFOWL ACTING STRANGELY

Do not handle carcasses of birds found already dead. Avoid harvesting game birds that appear sick. Diseased birds may appear unsteady or act strangely. Report clusters of dead or sick birds through the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife online reporting system. Go to fw.ky.gov, then search under the keywords, "avian influenza."



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Commissioner: Rich Storm
Deputy Commissioner: Brian Clark
Deputy Commissioner: Gabe Jenkins
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Fisheries Director: Dave Drees
Law Enforcement Director: Col. Jeremy McQueary
Information & Education Director: Kevin Kelly
Administrative Services Director: Lisa Cox
Engineering, Infrastructure and Technology Director: Michael Scott
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KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Fish, wildlife and boating regulations are recommended by the Commission (board) and approved by the Kentucky legislature. Commission members are experienced and active anglers and hunters, who serve 4-year terms after being publicly nominated by peers in their geographic districts, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky Senate.

Learn more or contact your district Commission member at fw.ky.gov/More/Pages/Commission.aspx

KENTUCKY WATERFOWL HUNTING GUIDE

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Nathan Sangster photo

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, boat registration fees and related grants. The Department conserves, protects and enhances all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment.

Have a suggestion or question?

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife welcomes your questions or input.

Fish and Wildlife office hours:
Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM ET
#1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-858-1549 • Info.Center@ky.gov
fw.ky.gov



NOVEMBER 2023 – MARCH 2024

Nathan Sangster photo

KENTUCKY HUNTING GUIDE for WATERFOWL

- 2 HUNTING SEASONS and REGULATIONS**
- 3 WATERFOWL ZONES**
- 4 LICENSES and PERMITS**
- 5 FEDERAL REGULATIONS**
- 7 PUBLIC LAND HUNTING**
- 12 MENTOR / MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HATCHERY HUNTS**

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a SUMMARY of the laws regarding waterfowl hunting. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) **BEFORE** engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at <https://legislature.ky.gov/LRC/Pages/default.aspx>.

HUNTING SEASONS and REGULATIONS

SPECIES	Season Dates	Daily Limit	Possession Limit
Duck	Nov. 23-26 and Dec. 7, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	6; of any species singly or combined, except the limit may include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 of which may be hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 2 black ducks and 2 canvasback. 1 scaup Nov. 23-26 and Dec. 7-17; and 2 scaup Dec. 18 - Jan. 31.	Triple the daily bag limit
Coot		15	45
Merganser		5; only 2 may be hooded	Triple the daily bag limit
Canada/Cackling Goose, White-Fronted Goose & Brant	Nov. 23, 2023 - Feb. 15, 2024	5 combined; 3 Canada geese, 2 white-fronted geese and 1 brant	Triple the daily bag limit
Snow Goose (including Ross' Goose)		20	none
Youth-only Waterfowl	Nov. 18, 2023; Feb. 10, 2024	Same as regular season. Scaup limit is 2 scaup daily.	
Military/Veteran-only Waterfowl	Nov. 19, 2023; Feb. 11, 2024		
Falconry (ducks, coots & mergansers)	Nov. 23, 2023 - Feb. 25, 2024**	3	9
Falconry (geese)	Same as regular season**	Same as regular season	
Snow Goose Conservation Order	Feb. 16 - Mar. 31, 2024† **	none	none
Sandhill Crane	Dec. 7, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024 (permit required)	1 or 2*	3

† Mandatory FREE permit required for hunting snow geese during this period, log on to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's homepage at fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 to obtain a permit. Everyone who obtains the Snow Goose Permit must report hunting activity by April 10, 2024.

*The daily bag limit for sandhill cranes is 2 cranes for permit holders with 2 or more tags, or 1 crane for hunters with one tag. Sandhill Crane permits available only through quota hunt drawing in September at fw.ky.gov; [applicants drawn to hunt sandhill cranes will be issued printable tags attached to hunting permits, accessible through their My Profile accounts at fw.ky.gov](#). Hunters must possess printed or electronic proof of a valid crane hunting permit while afield.

**Pit and blind restrictions in effect for some wildlife management areas (WMAs) do not apply to hunters during Snow Goose Conservation Order season. These restrictions also do not apply to falconers hunting waterfowl during periods when gun and archery waterfowl seasons are not open.

SHOOTING HOURS	
Regular	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
Exceptions:	
Snow Goose Conservation Order	One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset
Wildlife Management Areas	Regular, unless noted otherwise in the Public Hunting section of this guide.
Sandhill Crane	Sunrise to sunset

YOUTH- AND MILITARY-ONLY WATERFOWL SEASONS

Kentucky has eliminated zones for the youth-only waterfowl seasons and created special seasons for veterans and active duty members of the military. These special seasons are statewide.

- Youth-only waterfowl season includes the Saturday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 18, 2023) and the second Saturday in February (Feb. 10, 2024).
- The veteran/active-duty military season includes the Sunday before Thanksgiving (Nov. 19, 2023) and the second Sunday in February (Feb. 11, 2024).

Unless license exempt, participants

in the military-only waterfowl days must have a valid Kentucky hunting license and migratory bird/waterfowl permit. All hunters must have a signed, current federal duck stamp, and have completed a HIP survey.

Hunters eligible to participate in the veterans/active-duty military special waterfowl hunt days include those on active duty with all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. "Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, air or space service, and who was honorably discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Per federal rule, National Guard members and reservists are only eligible if they are on active duty.

Veterans/active-duty military must carry proof of that status in the field. Acceptable forms of proof include a current military identification card, a VA-issued identification card, a state-issued driver's license or identification card with a veteran's designation, or an original or copy of a DD Form 214, DD Form 215, NGB Form 22, NGB Form 22-a or DD Form 256.

Youth hunters must be under the age of 16 on the day of the hunt. Youths must be accompanied by an adult. The adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm. An adult who is not hunting does not need to possess a hunting license or waterfowl permits.

An adult cannot hunt waterfowl during the November youth-only season, as the regular waterfowl seasons are not yet open. An adult accompanying a youth during the youth-only season in February may hunt geese, as the regular goose season is still open. (Ballard WMA requires the purchase of a 1-day permit for participants, regardless of whether they are hunting.)

SANDHILL CRANE SEASON

Sandhill crane season opens Dec. 7, 2023 and closes Jan. 31, 2024. **New for this season, hunters will now receive**

paper tags attached to the bottom of the Sandhill Crane Hunt Permit. Hunters are able to print the hunt permit containing the tags. Hunters will no longer be mailed metal tags. The paper tag must be attached before moving a harvested bird. Hunters must apply for a sandhill crane permit online during the month of September on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources website and pay a \$3 application fee.

Applicants must have a valid Kentucky hunting license or be license exempt when they apply. Results are posted to individual applicants online following the drawing. Drawn hunters must pass an online identification exam before receiving a sandhill crane hunting permit.

Hunters must telecheck harvested birds on the day taken.

Hunters participating in the sandhill crane hunting season must complete a post-season survey by Feb. 14 or lose eligibility to apply the following year.

SHOT SIZE, TYPE, SHOTSHELL LENGTH RESTRICTIONS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved nontoxic shot no larger than size "T" is required for all waterfowl and sandhill

crane hunting. Shot larger than size "T," or shotshells longer than 3.5 inches, may not be possessed or used while hunting waterfowl or sandhill cranes. Currently, steel, bismuth, tungsten and certain tungsten composite shotshells are approved for use. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may approve other types of nontoxic shot which, if approved, will be permitted for waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting. Possession or use of any lead shot or any shot not approved by USFWS while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl or sandhill cranes is prohibited statewide. For more information visit www.fws.gov/story/2022-04/nontoxic-shot-regulations-hunting-waterfowl-and-coots-us

REPORTING BIRD BANDS

To report bird bands, go online to www.reportband.gov. The previous toll-free number is no longer operable. Hunters who harvest banded birds with the toll free number must still go online to report.

Banding plays a critical role in the management of migratory bird species. The data you provide by reporting bands gives wildlife biologists information on harvest rates and movements of migratory game birds. Please report the bands you recover.

WATERFOWL ZONES

BALLARD ZONE BOUNDARY

Starting at the northwest city limits of Wickliffe in Ballard County to the middle of the Mississippi River, then north along the Mississippi to the low water mark of the Ohio River along the Illinois shore to

the Ballard-McCracken County line; then along the county line south to Hwy. 358, then south along Hwy. 358 to its junction with U.S. 60 at LaCenter; then following U.S. 60 southwest to the northeast city limits of Wickliffe.

All constructed or used blinds (including boats) must be at least 100 yards apart and at least 50 yards from any property line. A waterfowl hunter shall not possess more than one (1) uncased or loaded shotgun while in the blind.

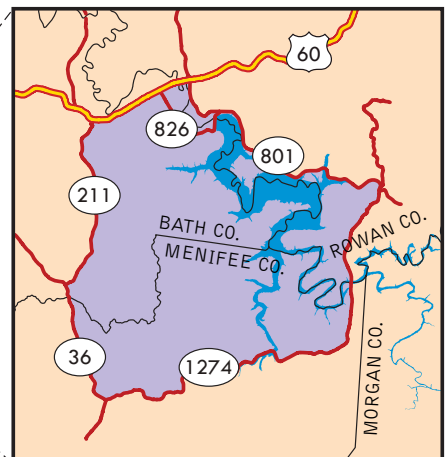
CAVE RUN LAKE GOOSE CLOSURE AREA

No goose hunting is permitted on public land (USFS) and water within the block of land lying inside the boundaries of Hwy. 801, Hwy. 1274, Hwy. 36, Hwy. 211, Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 826. **Note:** This area includes most of Cave Run Lake.

CAVE RUN GOOSE CLOSURE AREA



Cave Run Goose Closure Area



	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident fee	Nonresident fee
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$23	\$55
	Joint Married Couple Annual Fishing	\$42	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7	\$15
	3-Year Fishing (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$55	Not available
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$35
	Trout Permit	\$10	
	Annual Hunting	\$27	\$150
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$25
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$65
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	Shooting Area License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5	
	Annual Trapping	\$20	\$130
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10	Not available
	Annual Youth Trapping (ages 12-15)	\$5	Not available
COMBOS	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$42	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License* (Includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License. For residents age 65 and older.)	\$12	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing license, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state migratory game bird-waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, youth deer permit and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
	Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License* (Must maintain Kentucky residency; includes all senior sportsman's licenses and permits. For residents age 65 and older.)	\$180	Not available
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (four deer)	\$35	\$185
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (four deer)	\$10	\$15
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$85
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(two turkeys)	\$30	\$85
	Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit	\$15	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$25	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$25	
	Sandhill Crane Permit (quota hunt, apply in Sept. at fw.ky.gov)	\$3	\$3
ELK	Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30)	\$10	
	Youth Elk Drawing Application (ages 15 and under)	\$10	
	Quota Bull Elk Firearm Permit (if drawn)	\$100	\$550
	Quota Cow Elk Firearm Permit (if drawn)	\$60	\$400
	Quota (either sex) Archery/Crossbow Permit (if drawn)	\$100	\$550
	Quota Youth (ages 12-15) Elk Permit (if drawn; youth drawn for other permits pay full cost)	\$30	\$200
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit	\$30	\$400
BEAR	Bear Permit	\$30	\$250
	Youth Bear Permit (ages 12-15)	\$10	\$100
	Bear Chase Permit	\$30	\$50
	Youth Bear Chase Permit (ages 12-15)	\$10	\$15
	Combination Bear Permit (includes Bear Permit and Bear Chase Permit)	\$50	Not available
AREAS	Ballard WMA 1-Day Waterfowl Permit	\$15	
	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15	
	Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit (other LBL permits available online at www.landbetweenthe lakes.us)	\$25	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	Bobcat Permit (required for hunters)	Free	
	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at fw.ky.gov only)	Free	
	Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation (voluntary; available at fw.ky.gov only)	Any amount	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License.

Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youths under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).

LICENSES and PERMITS

NOTE: Licenses and permits are not required for kids under the age of 12.

WATERFOWL HUNTING	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Kentucky Residents	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/ Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp
Nonresidents (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp	

*Included in Youth Sportsman’s License
†Included in Resident Sportsman’s License

 HIP survey required (also required for Resident Sportsman’s License)

HUNTING LICENSE

Unless license-exempt, all hunters must possess a valid Kentucky hunting license when waterfowl hunting. Persons using a license authorization number must carry the number and a photo ID while hunting. All Kentucky residents 65 years of age and older, and younger Kentucky residents who are certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, by a state Workers Compensation Board, by the Kentucky Teacher’s Retirement System, by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, by the United States Railroad Retirement Board, or Kentucky resident veterans who have a permanent 50 percent disability as the result of military related injuries, must purchase and carry the Senior/Disabled hunting and fishing license while hunting or fishing on property other than their own.

KENTUCKY MIGRATORY BIRD/WATERFOWL PERMIT

Any person required to possess a hunting license must also possess a Ken-

tucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit while taking or attempting to take waterfowl or sandhill cranes. This state permit, which covers all species of migratory birds, is included with the Senior/Disabled and the Sportsman’s license. Before hunting, waterfowl and sandhill crane hunters **MUST COMPLETE** a 5-minute Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey. Go online to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov, then click on the “My Profile” tab, followed by the “HIP Migratory Bird Survey” tab. After completing the HIP survey, you will receive a confirmation number that must be written on your hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit before you go hunting.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

In addition to the state waterfowl permit requirement, all persons age 16 or over must carry a valid federal migratory bird hunting stamp (duck stamp) to hunt waterfowl. While waterfowl hunters ages 12-15 must possess a youth hunting license, they are not required to have the

Federal Waterfowl Stamp or the Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit. Hunters must validate their stamp by signing it before going afield. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also offers an electronic duck stamp (E-stamp) good for 45 days. This stamp is valid until the hunter receives a physical stamp in the mail, which must be signed immediately. Obtain these online at fws.gov, then search under the keyword, “e-stamp.”

HUNTER EDUCATION

All hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, must carry proof of valid hunter education certification or the one-time hunter education exemption permit while hunting, in addition to the appropriate Kentucky hunting license, federal duck stamp and state waterfowl permit. Hunters not required to have a hunting license are exempt from hunter education certification. Hunters under the age of 12 may hunt without course completion, but must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age who remains in a position to take immediate control of the youth’s firearm.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Note

The material here is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the complete federal regulations, which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

In addition to state regulations, the following federal laws apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds.

RESTRICTIONS

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than a 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shotshells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is

incapable of removal without disassembling the gun: (except during the Snow Goose Conservation Order season where there is no restriction on numbers of shotshells).

- 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. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord;
- From or by means of any motor boat or sail boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;
- 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;
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls, or sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls (except electronic calls may be used during the Snow Goose Conservation Order);
- By driving, rallying or stirring birds with any motor-driven land, water or air conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters; or
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait.
- Areas manipulated for dove hunting **are not** legal for waterfowl hunting.
- Over areas where farmers feed livestock or areas where grain is stored, such as grain bins and elevators.

CLOSED SEASON

No person shall take migratory game birds during the closed season.

SHOOTING HOURS

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting as prescribed.

DAILY BAG LIMIT

The total limit of a specific migratory game bird species that may be taken during legal shooting hours for one calendar day, regardless of state boundaries.

FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT

No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

POSSESSION LIMIT

The total limit of a specific migratory game bird species that may be in your possession at anytime, whether on your person or stored in another location (including your home or taxidermist). Note: Migratory birds taken in another state count toward a hunter's daily and possession limits.

WANTON WASTE

All migratory game birds shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

TAGGING

No person shall 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: a) the hunter's signature; b) the hunter's address; c) the total number of birds involved, by species; d) the dates such birds were killed.

Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS

Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

DRESSING

No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered

wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility.

SHIPMENT

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: a) the name and the address of the person sending the birds; b) the name and the address of the person to whom the birds are being sent; c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

IMPORTATION

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between the port of entry and one's home, or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required in 20.63), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

DUAL VIOLATION

Violation of state migratory game bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

Caution

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For more information on Federal Regulations, consult Assistant Regional Director - LE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 4839, Atlanta, Georgia, 30302-4839; or call (404) 331-5872.

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

BLIND REGISTRATION

On the following areas, hunt sites must be registered on a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Kentucky Fish & Wildlife before the blind is constructed: Barkley Lake, Barren River Lake, Doug Travis and Green River Lake. Applicants must show a valid hunting license, Kentucky Waterfowl Permit, and Federal Migratory (Duck) Bird Stamp when applying. An applicant may designate one other person as a partner and shall not hold more than one permit per area. Permittees shall not lock blinds to prevent use by other hunters in absence of the permittee. Hunt sites on the above listed areas must be constructed by Nov. 20 and removed within 30 days of the close of the season. Permittees who fail to remove their blind as stated will forfeit the opportunity to obtain a blind the following year.

On Barkley, Barren River, Doug Travis and Green River Lake WMAs, hunters who want hunt sites must register and be selected by random drawing. Drawings are held August through October and applicants must be 18 years of age and show a valid Kentucky hunting license, a Kentucky waterfowl permit and a Federal migratory bird stamp at that time. Each person drawn may select a partner of the hunt site for hunting in the absence

of the person drawn. Partners must be present at the drawing. Drawn hunters may use their hunt site the entire season and may use a boat or a portable blind or construct a permanent blind. Each hunt site must be pinned with a permanent marker identifying the permit holders for the hunt site. If drawn hunters do not occupy a blind or hunt site by one-hour before sunrise that day, the blind or hunt site is open to other hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.

BLIND RESTRICTIONS

Unless otherwise stated in this guide, the following restrictions apply to all open WMAs:

- permanent blinds are not permitted;
- decoys and temporary blinds must be removed from the WMA at the end of each hunting day;
- no more than 4 persons shall make up a hunting party; and
- designated recreation areas and access points are closed to all waterfowl hunting.
- discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a residence or occupied building whether or not the building is on the WMA.

WATERFOWL HUNTING ON PUBLIC LANDS

Not all lands managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) are open to statewide seasons and bag-limits for waterfowl hunting. This section will list any special season dates, limits and requirements that are in effect for the following areas. If specific season dates are given for an area, then that is the only time waterfowl hunting is permitted. Otherwise, hunting is open under statewide season dates. This section also lists any areas that are closed to hunting or public access. **Areas owned**

or managed by the KDFWR that are not listed below are open to statewide seasons and limits.

BALLARD WMA Ballard County

Ballard WMA is open exclusively for quota waterfowl hunting from Oct. 15 to March 15. Ballard is closed to all other types of hunting or access during this period. Quota hunts are held Wednesdays through Sundays of the second duck season segment. Ballard is closed to all access on Mondays, Tuesdays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Hunting methods available at Ballard include hunting from an in-ground pit or above ground blind, free-lance hunting within a designated hunt unit or boat-in hunting for designated areas only. Hunt units mostly consist of harvested grain fields and seasonally flooded crops, moist soil units, and natural depressions or "sloughs", that are lined with shrubby cover and trees. Chest waders should be used to hunt in the water on all units. Woody vegetation, unsure footing and fast elevation changes are a possibility on all waterfowl hunting units. There are also two

Checking in at Ballard

All hunters drawn to hunt at Ballard WMA must check in the morning of their hunt at the WMA check station by 5 a.m. Central time (Doors open at 4:30 a.m.). The check station is located at 864 Wildlife Lodge Road, LaCenter, Ky.

- Hunters in party must have all necessary licenses/permits in their possession; drawn hunter must have driver's license.
- Anyone not checked in by 5 a.m. forfeits the right to hunt that day.
- Random drawing for hunting units will be held at 5 a.m.
- Hunters will have the ability to select their hunting unit for that day from available units based on the order of the drawing.
- Unclaimed units will be entered into a stand-by drawing.
- Stand-by hunters must check in by 5 a.m.

Follow the rules!

Hunters who do not comply with quota hunt requirements are ineligible to apply for any quota hunt the following year (including deer, pheasant and waterfowl), and will lose any accumulated preference points.

Quota hunters must apply for a hunt or apply for the "do not hunt" option every year to avoid losing preference points. Applicants who were unsuccessful in the quota hunt drawing or applied for the do not hunt option will be automatically awarded 1 preference point. Only 1 point can be acquired per hunt species annually.

blinds available for mobility-impaired hunters. These mobility impaired blinds are wheelchair accessible. Hunters must draw a daily hunt permit available through the online quota hunt system. Each drawn hunter may bring up to three guests.

- The \$15 Ballard WMA 1-Day Waterfowl Permit must be purchased online at fw.ky.gov prior to your hunt. Payment of any kind will NOT be taken at the check station.
- On all hunt units, legal shooting time starts one-half hour before sunrise, and all hunters must be off the area by 2 p.m. daily.
- Drawn hunters must be present for the party to hunt.
- Hunters must stay within 25 feet of another party member and the furthest members of the party can be no more than 75 feet apart.
- Hunters are limited to 25 shells/person per day. Bag limit and possession limit are the same as statewide limits. At least one person in a hunt party must be 18 years of age or older.
- The Ohio River from 50 yards upstream of the north border of Ballard WMA to 50 yards downstream of the southern border of Ballard WMA is closed to waterfowl hunting Oct. 15 – Mar. 15.
- Ballard WMA is open for early wood duck and teal seasons with no daily drawing. Ballard WMA is closed for the Thanksgiving segment of the season, as well as the Snow Goose Conservation Order season.
- Hunters must complete the Daily Post Hunt Survey provided and place in the drop box located check station parking lot by 3 p.m.

Ballard weather closures

Public hunting areas will close when floodwaters prevent safe entry to hunting fields by wheeled vehicles on roads. Prolonged drought may also mean areas are not available to hunt and force closure. Notice will be given at least 24 hours in advance via the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Hunters should always check the website before heading to their hunt.

BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA Allen & Barren counties

- Hunters may use breech or muzzle-loading shotguns for waterfowl hunting

along the Barren River Lake shoreline bordering the primitive weapons area known as the "Peninsula Unit."

- A person shall not hunt sandhill cranes within 100 yards of the normal summer pool level of 552 feet in the following embayments: Beaver Creek, Skaggs Creek and Peters Creek.

Also, see BLIND REGISTRATION.

BIG RIVERS WMA Union & Crittenden counties

- Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

BOATWRIGHT WMA Ballard County including Peal, Olmsted, 400 Acre & Swan Lake units:

Boatwright WMA is open for waterfowl hunting, Wednesdays – Sundays, during the regular waterfowl season. Boatwright WMA is closed to waterfowl hunting on Mondays, Tuesdays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Hunting methods available at Boatwright include hunting from an in-ground pit or above ground blind, layout blind hunting, walk-in hunting within a designated hunt unit, or boat-in hunting. All hunters are limited to 25 shells/person per day. Bag limit and possession limit are the same as statewide limits. All decoys and gear must be removed at the end of each day's hunt and may not be left unattended. Areas identified by signs are closed to all access Oct. 15 – Mar. 15.

There are new rules for the opening segment of duck season. Please check the Boatwright WMA Hunt Fact Sheet for more information.

- **All regular season duck hunts, including Thanksgiving week, will now require hunters to be drawn via the Boatwright Online Quota Hunt App or by in-person standby drawings.**
- **Beginning Dec. 1 annually, boating will be limited to only those drawn for that day's quota hunt. All boats must be off the water by 2 p.m. and boating is not permitted on days that quota hunts are not held.**
- **Hunters will now be assigned hunting units within Boatwright; they are no longer restricted to blinds and may hunt most locations within that unit. Hunting parties may still use department blinds or move within the unit. Hunting parties must remain at least**

Floodwater note

Hunting on Boatwright WMA during periods of flooding is allowed as long as it is deemed safe by the area manager. Online applications will be suspended during flooding and permit is by in-person drawing only. Floodwaters are dangerous and should be attempted only by experienced hunters and boaters. Notice will be given at least 24 hours in advance via the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Hunters should monitor the website when flooding is expected.

50 yards away from a property boundary and 200 yards from another hunting party.

- **If the unit allows use of a boat, it may also be used as a blind.**

All hunters must be assigned a hunt unit each day through a drawing held either online or in-person at the check station. Online applications are taken each Wednesday through Sunday, the week before you plan to hunt. Each Monday, a random drawing will select hunters and assign a hunt unit for each day of that week. Hunt dates must be applied for individually. Successful online hunters must still check in at the check station before 4:45 a.m. each day, or forfeit their spot. Spots reserved for in-person drawings as well as forfeited online spots, will be available in the in-person drawing each morning. To apply online and for more information, go to <https://app.fw.ky.gov/HuntDraw>. **The check station is located at 362 Broadway Street, Barlow, Ky.** Hunters may not enter the area to hunt until after they have checked in and are in possession of the daily Waterfowl Hunt Permit. Doors to the check-in station will open at 4:15 a.m. Central time. Hunt drawings will begin at 4:45 a.m. Central time. Shooting hours begin ½ hour before sunrise, and all hunters and equipment must be off the area by 2 p.m. Central time.

Daily Drawing Rules and Procedures: When hunting assigned hunt sites through the waterfowl drawings, hunters must follow these rules:

- Hunters participating in random drawings for hunt units can only draw one unit per day.
- The waterfowl permit holder may invite up to 3 guests to form a hunt party. The waterfowl permit holder must be present for the party to hunt. All hunt

party members must report at the check station the morning of the hunt prior to going to the assigned unit.

- Hunters must stay within 25 feet of another party member and the furthest members of the party can be no more than 75 feet apart.
- Hunt parties shall not hunt within 200 yards of another hunt party and shall not hunt within 50 yards of property line.
- Boats must be less than 22 feet long and operate at idle speed only.
- Hunters must complete the Daily Post Hunt Survey provided and place in box by 3 p.m.

Any unit open to hunting during the regular waterfowl season is also open for snow goose hunting during the Snow Goose Conservation Order season.

CAVE RUN LAKE AREA

No goose hunting is permitted on public lands or waters within the block of land lying inside the boundaries of Hwy. 801, Hwy. 1274, Hwy. 36, Hwy. 211, Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 826. See map on page 3.

CEDAR CREEK LAKE WMA Lincoln County

- Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

DIX RIVER WMA Lincoln County

- Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

DOUG TRAVIS WMA Carlisle & Hickman counties

Doug Travis WMA is open to state-wide regulations for hunting EXCEPT the portions of the WMA as identified by signs, which are CLOSED to the public from Nov. 1 to March 15. Waterfowl hunting opportunities at Doug Travis WMA include walk-in, boat-in and season-long blind drawings. There are also two blind locations available for Mobility-Impaired hunters. One blind, blind 13, is an above ground blind that can be driven to, and is wheel chair accessible. The other blind, blind 19, is a boat-in blind location. Hunters must hunt from their boat within 10 yards of the blind location. Both, blinds 13 and 19, are available through a mail-in pre-season draw (see below for details). Hunters who wish to draw a season-long blind must register and be selected by random drawing

the last Saturday in August. Certain regulations apply on this area and are listed below. For more details, see the “Blind Registration” portion of this guide, or the online waterfowl-hunting page. Hunt units on this area mostly consist of harvested grain fields and seasonally flooded crops, moist soil units, and natural depressions or “Sloughs” that are lined with shrubby cover and trees. Chest waders should be used to hunt in the water on all units. Woody vegetation, beaver runs, and rapid changes in elevation are a possibility on all waterfowl hunting units. Mississippi River levels should be closely monitored to determine if a boat is needed to access and hunt the area. Mississippi River levels exceeding 35 feet at the Cairo, Illinois river gauge indicate the potential loss of road access to some areas of the WMA. Typically, river levels above 41 feet on the Cairo gauge cut off road access on both ends of the Berkley - Fish Lake Road, making a boat necessary to access most of the area. On all hunt units, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 2 p.m. CST. **Hunters must exit the area by 2 p.m. daily.** Hunters may not enter a hunt area until 4 a.m. CST daily.

Special WMA Regulations

- On Forked Lake, Indian Camp Lake, Fish Lake, Number Four Lake, Black Lake, Upper Goose Pond Field, Twin Ponds Field, and Town Creek Moist Soil Unit, all waterfowl hunting after Nov. 1 will be from Kentucky Fish & Wildlife-designated sites assigned by pre-season drawing; even during periods of Mississippi River flooding. Hunters may walk in or boat in to hunt any units not mentioned in this list, except for the areas closed Nov. 1 – March 15.
- Individuals must be 18 years of age and possess a valid Kentucky Hunting License, Kentucky Waterfowl Permit and Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) Stamp when applying for designated hunt sites.
- All blinds must remain within 10 yards of the designated numbered location.
- Permanent blinds, if constructed, must be in place by Nov. 20 and removed within 30 days of the close of the season.
- Persons who fail to remove their blind after the season will forfeit the opportunity to obtain a blind site the following year.
- Persons drawn for a designated site (blind owners) may name one other person as a co-owner who may also claim the site each day. Blind owners and co-owners may not have more than one designated permanent blind site on

the area each year.

- All selected sites must be marked with the blind owner’s name and permit number.
- Blind sites that are not claimed by the blind owners one hour before sunrise, may be claimed by other hunters on a first-come first-served stand-by basis.
- Hunters at designated blind sites may leave decoys out at their own discretion and risk, although this DOES NOT guarantee rights to a particular spot for following days (unless hunters are the blind owner or co-owner of a season-drawn blind site).
- All hunting parties, both at designated blind sites and those walk-in/boat-in hunting, must be at least 200 yards apart.
- No more than four persons shall occupy a single blind at any time.
- The WMA road into the Twin Ponds Field is closed during waterfowl season. Potential stand-by hunters for Blinds 16 and 17 may enter the area on foot. This is to avoid disturbance of hunters using Blinds 16 and 17.
- **There are two mobility-impaired blinds available via quota hunts.** Check this link: <https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Waterfowl-Hunting.aspx> for more details.

GRAYSON LAKE WMA Carter & Elliott counties

The following portions are closed to all waterfowl hunting: within three-quarters of a mile of the dam site marina, the shores of Camp Webb and Deer Creek Fork of Grayson Lake. All other portions are open.

GREEN RIVER LAKE WMA Taylor & Adair counties

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

A person shall not hunt sandhill cranes within 100 yards on the normal summer pool level of 675 feet, east of the Hwy. 551 Bridge in the following embayments:

Green River to the Snake Creek Boat ramp; Casey Creek to the Hwy. 76 Bridge.
Also, see BLIND REGISTRATION.

J.C. WILLIAMS WMA Nelson County

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

KALER BOTTOMS WMA Graves County

Shooting hours are from one-half

hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

KENTUCKY RIVER WMA **Henry & Owen counties**

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

LAKE BARKLEY WMA **Trigg, Lyon & Livingston counties**

• Refuge areas **closed** to all hunting, fishing, boating and molesting of all species listed in this guide are:

- a) within an area west of the main river channel between river mile 51 (Hayes Landing Light) and the TVA power transmission lines at river mile 55.5, closed Nov. 1 – Feb. 15; and
 - b) the area west of a line from the north point of the mouth of Fulton Bay to the south point of the mouth of Honker Bay, closed Nov. 1 – Mar. 15.
- Boating is allowed but hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of the area surrounded by a levee and located between river mile 68.4 and river mile 70.4 Oct. 15 – March 15.
- Permanent blinds must remain within 10 yards of the assigned numbered blind marker within the two areas described as follows:
- a) Beginning at the mouth of Donaldson Creek and proceeding south along the east side of the old Cumberland River channel as marked by buoys, to a point due west of the boat ramp at Linton, then east to the Linton boat ramp, then north along the east shore of Lake Barkley to the mouth of Donaldson Creek;
 - b) Beginning at Pryor's Creek Light extending south along the western shore of Barkley Lake to the boat ramp at the end of Land Between The Lakes Road 204, then to the west side of the Cumberland River channel, marked with buoys, to river mile 73.5, then north along the west side of the Cumberland River channel, marked with buoys, to Pryor Creek Light.
- All other blinds within this described area shall be temporary. See also **BLIND REGISTRATION**.

LAKE CUMBERLAND WMA **Pulaski County**

Wesley Bend, the area bounded to the

north, west and south by Fishing Creek and to the east by Beech Grove Road and Fishing Creek Road is closed to the public Oct. 15 – March 15;

Yellowhole, the area bounded to the west by Fishing Creek Road and the south by Hickory Nut Road is closed to the public Oct. 15 – March 15.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES **Trigg & Lyon counties**

Long Creek Pond, the eastern one-third of Smith Bay and the eastern two-thirds of Duncan Bay on Kentucky Lake are closed to all activity Nov. 1 – March 15, as indicated by a visible marker on the south corner. The Environmental Education Center and Energy Lake are closed to all waterfowl hunting. **LBL permit required**. No waterfowl hunting permitted on inland areas during quota gun deer hunts. Permanent blinds are prohibited on inland areas and along Kentucky Lake shoreline area. Decoys and blinds must be removed at the end of each hunting day.

MILLER WELCH-CENTRAL **KENTUCKY WMA** **Madison County**

- Duck, coot and merganser season is Jan. 15-31.
- Goose season is Jan. 15 – Feb. 15.
- Areas marked by signs are closed to all hunting.

OBION CREEK WMA **Carlisle, Hickman & Fulton counties**

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

OHIO RIVER ISLANDS WMA **Livingston County**

The portion of the Ohio River from Smithland Lock and Dam upstream to the powerline crossing at river mile 911.5 is closed to hunting.

Stewart (Birdsville) Island is closed to public access Oct. 15 – March 15, except for October muzzleloader season. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

OHIO RIVER **Ballard County** **in vicinity of Ballard WMA from 50 yards upstream of the north border of Ballard WMA to 50 yards downstream of the southern border of Ballard WMA:**

Closed to all waterfowl hunting
Oct. 15 – March 15.

PEABODY WMA **Ohio, Hopkins & Muhlenberg counties**

- Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. **on those portions open to hunting**. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.
- Persons entering the area for any purpose must obtain a Peabody WMA user permit (\$15).
- **Sinclair Unit**: That portion as bounded by Hwy. 176, S1 road and Goose Lake Rd., (including Goose Lake) and as posted by signs, is closed Oct. 15 – March 15.
- **Ken Unit**: That portion as bounded by Wysox Rd., H2 road, H1 road and H6 road (including Island and South lakes) and as posted by signs, is closed Oct. 15 – March 15.

(The two refuge areas mentioned above are shown on the Peabody WMA map which hunters may obtain at the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov.)

PIONEER WEAPONS WMA **Bath & Menifee counties**

Hunters may use breech or muzzle-loading shotguns for **duck hunting** along the Cave Run Lake shoreline bordering the area. Hunters may use muzzle-loading shotguns (or archery equipment) elsewhere on the area.

ROBINSON FOREST WMA **Breathitt, Perry & Knott counties** **Main block:**

Closed to all hunting.

SLOUGHS WMA **Henderson & Union counties**

Waterfowl hunting can be found on the Sauerheber, Jenny Hole, Highland Creek and Grassy Pond/Powell's Lake units of Sloughs WMA. Waterfowl hunting opportunities at Sloughs WMA include online quota hunt draws and weekly on-site drawings. There is also walk-in hunting available on large portions of the WMA. Hunt units consist of a diverse mix of seasonally flooded grain crops, natural "moist soil" vegetation, natural marsh, seasonally flooded bottomland forest, and natural depressions or "sloughs," that contain flooded stands of bald cypress lined with buttonbush thickets. Waders should be used to hunt in the water on all units. Woody vegetation, bea-

ver runs, and rapid changes in elevation are a possibility on all waterfowl hunting units. Hunting the Jenny Hole Unit typically requires a boat or canoe. Ohio River levels should be closely monitored to determine if a boat is needed to access and hunt the remaining hunt units at the Sloughs. Ohio River levels exceeding 30 feet at the Evansville and/or J.T. Meyer gauge indicate the potential loss of road access to some areas of the WMA. There is one blind available for mobility impaired hunters on the Sauerheber Unit. The blind is wheelchair accessible. On all hunt units, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 2 p.m. CST. **Hunters must exit the area by 2 p.m. daily.** Hunters may not enter a hunt area until 4 a.m. CST daily. Each unit has specific information that can be found below.

Sauerheber, Crenshaw and Duncan II Units: During duck season (Nov. 23-26 and Dec. 7, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024), waterfowl hunting is available on the Crenshaw and Duncan tracts through an online Quota Hunt drawing. Hunting is permitted only within designated hunt unit boundaries or blinds. The remainder of the Sauerheber Unit is closed to all public access from Nov. 1 – March 15. The quota hunt application period is Sept. 1-30. Results of the drawing will be available in mid-October. Successful applicants will be assigned a hunt unit or a specific hunting blind. If you draw a hunt unit, you may hunt anywhere within the defined hunt unit boundary (See Sloughs WMA: Sauerheber Hunt Unit Maps). Two of the twelve available units are blind locations only. You cannot hunt outside of the blind on these two units.

Hunters selected for a Sauerheber Quota Hunt must check-in on the Sunday prior to their hunt by sending an email to sloughsquotahunt@ky.gov. In the email, please include your name, hunt unit, hunt dates, and hunt confirmation number. If the permit holder fails to check-in the Sunday prior to the hunt, you will not have the necessary permit to hunt and could be cited.

All hunters must complete and submit the Daily Post-Hunt Survey provided by the Department by 3 p.m. CST each day. Failure to complete the Daily Post-Hunt Survey will result in the permit holder being ineligible to hunt at Sloughs WMA for the remainder of the current and following waterfowl season. Daily Post-Hunt Survey cards and drop-box will be located next to the kiosk in front of the

Sloughs WMA office on Highway 268.

Quota hunt permits are not transferable. No hunt unit/blind site may be hunted unless the hunter selected for that hunt unit/blind site, for that specific date(s) is present and has on their person a valid Hunt Confirmation Number issued by KDFWR. No standby hunting is allowed.

Quota permit holders may bring up to three (3) additional hunting (or non-hunting) guests per party. Hunters are allowed 25 shells per day on the Crenshaw/Duncan tracts. All hunters must have a photo ID and all appropriate licenses and permits. Hunters must hunt in close proximity to other hunt party members so that each member of the party is within 25 feet of another party member and no two party members are more than 75 feet apart.

The entire Sauerheber Unit is closed to all public access on Tuesday and Wednesdays during waterfowl season.

Grassy Pond-Powells Lake, Highland Creek Units: Walk in hunting is available on this unit, but walk in hunters must remain a minimum of 200 yards from other hunting parties.

Jenny Hole Unit: During duck season (Nov. 23-26 and Dec. 7, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024), waterfowl hunting on the Jenny Hole Unit is allowed by permit only. A person or party that wishes to hunt waterfowl on the Jenny Hole Unit must be drawn weekly. A person or party that wishes to hunt waterfowl on the Jenny Hole Unit must attend a weekly on-site drawing at the Sloughs WMA office or apply using the online quota hunt system. The drawing will be held each Monday prior to a hunt week, at 6 p.m. CST during duck season; unless Monday falls on the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day holiday, in which the drawing will be postponed until the following Wednesday night. Two hunt parties will be allocated using the online quota hunt system and ten spots will be drawn on-site each week. **New for this season, hunt permits will be issued for 2-Day or 3-Day periods.** The successful online drawing participant must check-in on the Sunday prior to their hunt by sending an email to sloughsquotahunt@ky.gov. In the email, please include your name, hunt unit, hunt dates, and hunt confirmation number.

The Jenny Hole Unit is closed to waterfowl hunting on Tuesday and Wednesdays during waterfowl season. The Jenny Hole Unit is closed to ALL boats from

Thanksgiving Day through the last Sunday in January, except for hunters with a valid Jenny Hole Hunt Permit. Trappers who wish to trap the Jenny Hole Unit during this time must obtain a special permit from the Sloughs WMA office. Hunters drawn for the Jenny Hole Unit may NOT access the unit except during the dates listed on their hunt permit(s). Therefore, scouting in the afternoon or prior to hunt dates is NOT allowed.

All hunters must complete and submit the Daily Post-Hunt Survey provided by the Department by 3 p.m. CST each day. Failure to complete the Daily Post-Hunt Survey will result in the permit holder being ineligible to hunt at Sloughs WMA for the remainder of the current and following waterfowl season. Daily Post-Hunt Survey cards and drop-boxes are located at two sites within the Jenny Hole Unit.

SOUTH SHORE WMA Greenup County

Closed to all hunting and trespassing Nov. 15, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024, except for dove and waterfowl hunting. Open to waterfowl and dove hunting during other times of the year according to statewide regulations. Use of waterfowl blinds at South Shore WMA is on a first-come, first-served basis.

TAYLORSVILLE LAKE WMA Anderson, Spencer & Nelson counties

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter the area until 4 a.m.

Hunters may hunt waterfowl from temporary blinds on a first-come basis.

YATESVILLE LAKE WMA Lawrence County

The Greenbriar Creek Branch, and Yatesville Lake, including all islands, north of the mouth of Greenbriar Creek Branch are **closed** to waterfowl hunting, except for Yatesville Lake State Park.

YELLOWBANK WMA Breckinridge County

Areas designated by signs and markers on Tract 1 are closed Oct. 15 – March 15.

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 2 p.m. Hunters may not enter area until 4 a.m.

MENTOR / MOBILITY- IMPAIRED HATCHERY HUNTS

MINOR CLARK and PFEIFFER FISH HATCHERIES

Open for mentor-youth waterfowl quota hunts. Dates for 2024 include: Jan. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28.

- Hunts by advance **online** registration only. No standby hunting. Only youths and mobility-impaired hunters may apply.
- Mentor hunt only, limited to youths under 16.
- Youth(s) must be accompanied by an adult (mentor) at least 18 years or older.
- Hunters drawn to hunt must carry post-card notification with them during the hunt.
- Limited to 4 hunters with no more than two hunting adults. One mentor may have two youth but one youth may not have more than 1 mentor in a blind.
- Hunters cannot enter blinds until 5:30 a.m.
- Bag limits same as statewide.

- Hunting only permitted from established blinds assigned by random pre-season draw.
- Hunters may only discharge firearms from the blind.
- Hunters may not change blinds.
- Hunters may only have 15 shotshells each.
- Hunters must immediately retrieve downed birds. Chasing or harassing waterfowl outside the blinds is strictly prohibited.
- Firearms must be encased when traveling to and from the blind.
- Hunting ends at noon and hunters must be off the area by 1 p.m.
- All decoys and equipment must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.
- Hunters must report harvest immediately after their hunt at the designated location by submitting hunt permit with the harvest results recorded on it.
- Those participating in a KDFWR waterfowl quota hunt must follow state and federal regulations or the hunter will be prohibited from participating in any other waterfowl quota hunts that year and the following year.
- Mobility-impaired hunters are also eligible to participate in the Minor Clark Mentor Hatchery Hunt. Hunters must

supply a copy of their mobility-impaired access permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife when applying for the hunt and must abide by hunt rules. Mobility-impaired hunters may only have one assistant.

HUNT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Individuals wishing to be drawn for one or more of the Mentor Hatchery Waterfowl hunts **must apply online on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov between Nov. 1 and Nov. 15.** A youth may apply for more than one date. A mentor and youth selected may invite two additional youth or one youth and one mentor to hunt with them. The names of guests do not have to be listed on the application. By the end of November, individuals selected will be mailed a quota hunt permit for the date(s) they are drawn, a map showing hatchery location, blinds and other instructions concerning the hunt. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified. An individual drawn for one quota hunt during a season will have lower preference to be drawn for a second quota hunt during the same season. Duplicate applications for the same hunt day will result in disqualification.

HUNTER ASSISTANCE NEEDED



WHITE-TAILED DEER

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife collects heads from hunter-harvested deer for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. CWD has not been detected in Kentucky. However, adequate testing is essential for early detection and limiting the spread of this always fatal disease of deer. Hunters should cut the head of a harvested buck or doe off a couple inches below the base of the skull and freeze.

Submitting deer samples

Kentucky Fish & Wildlife has several voluntary sample collection sites hunters can use to donate deer heads for testing. To find the site nearest you, go online to fw.ky.gov/cwd for maps and collection times. You may also contact a biologist using this online site to arrange a sample submittal.

RABBITS

Report the location of any site with multiple dead rabbits to a local biologist or by calling 1-800-858-1549 or emailing Info.Center@ky.gov. The department is monitoring for Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease, which has been found in domestic rabbits in Kentucky and the Southeastern United States, but not in wild rabbits in Kentucky. Humans are not at risk for this disease. However, people should not handle rabbit carcasses which are not hunter-harvested, as other diseases transmissible to humans may be present.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Wear gloves, keep your knife clean and wash your hands when processing wild game. If you harvest an animal and find something abnormal in the body or meat and you have concerns, take pictures and freeze a sample. Then contact a local biologist for guidance. Finally, don't eat an animal that appeared sick before its harvest.



fw.ky.gov

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources needs samples from game animals to assist its wildlife disease monitoring program. This will allow the department to better manage any potential disease outbreak.

Your assistance could include freezing portions of a carcass until it can be picked up, or reporting deceased wild animals. To find out more or to locate your local biologist, go online to fw.ky.gov/disease or call 1-800-858-1549

CHANGES IN REPORTING BIRD BANDS for WATERFOWL



Reporting numbers listed on leg bands of harvested birds is voluntary. To report waterfowl with a band, hunters must now go online and report the band at

www.reportband.gov

The toll-free number found on some bird bands can no longer be used for reporting a band number.

Those who call the toll-free number will be directed to the www.reportband.gov website.



Hunters who harvest waterfowl with a leg band that lists an address and/or a toll-free phone number should instead go online and report the band number at www.reportband.gov.



Migratory bird biologists use the data collected from bird band returns to accurately assess harvest, bird movement and survival. Managers use this information to set season dates, bag limits and the length of hunting seasons.



BE LEGAL!

FILL OUT YOUR HIP SURVEY!



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My Profile



*If you hunt for doves, ducks or any other migratory birds, you are required to fill out a **HIP Migratory Bird Survey** before you go hunting. To take the quick survey just log into your **My Profile** page on our website FW.KY.GOV*



Scan this QR code and sign into your My Profile account or go to fw.ky.gov/myprofile