GENERAL REGULATIONS

HUNTING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

License: Unless license exempt, hunters must possess a valid Kentucky hunting license when hunting the species listed in this guide.

A Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting Permit, along with a federal migratory bird stamp, authorize the holder to hunt all types of migratory game birds including waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers).

For those who hunt migratory birds other than waterfowl, only a Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting Permit is required. Before hunting migratory birds, hunters must now go online or call 1-800-888-1549 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and fill out the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey before they are legal migratory bird hunters.

The process takes less than 5 minutes. On the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife webpage at fw.ky.gov, click on the “My Profile” tab. This takes you to a page that asks for some basic information to confirm your identity. After completing the HIP survey, you will receive a confirmation number that must be written on your hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Hunting permit.

BAITED FIELDS

It is illegal to hunt doves or waterfowl over a “baited” field. Baited fields are areas where grain, salt or other attractants have been placed other than those that occur by legitimate agricultural practices. Mature wildlife food plots grown to attract doves are legal hunting areas, as long as no additional attractants have been placed on these areas.

FIELD DRESSING

When field dressing, or otherwise preparing for transportation, any of the species in this guide, except doves, one fully feathered wing or the head must be left on each bird for identification.

HUNTING REQUIREMENTS

All shotguns used to hunt any game species in Kentucky (except deer) must be plugged to hold three shells total; one in the chamber and two in the magazine. Shotguns of 10 gauge or smaller are permitted.

TAGGING

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following: 1) The hunter’s signature and address; 2) The total number of birds involved, by species; 3) The dates such birds were taken. Tagging is required if birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

WANTON WASTE

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

NON-TOXIC SHOT

Possession or use of any lead shot while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl is prohibited statewide. Only USFWS-approved non-toxic shot may be possessed and used to hunt doves, gallinules, rails, woodcock, snipe or other migratory birds on Ballard, Boatwright, Doug Travis, Sloughs, Kaler Bottoms, Kentucky River, Duck Island, Ohio River Islands, South Shore, Yatesville Lake WMAs and Clarks River NWR and other areas as posted by signs.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a SUMMARY of the laws regarding migratory bird 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 BEFORE engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registration fees. It receives no general fund state tax dollars. The Department manages, regulates, enforces and promotes responsible use of all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is an agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet.
WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO YOU NEED?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KENTUCKY RESIDENTS</th>
<th>Ages 12-15</th>
<th>Ages 16-64</th>
<th>Ages 65 and over OR Disabled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License*</td>
<td>Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†</td>
<td>Senior/Disabled License</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License*</td>
<td>Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp</td>
<td>Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)</th>
<th>Ages 12-15</th>
<th>Ages 16 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License</td>
<td>Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</td>
<td>Youth Hunting License</td>
<td>Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**HUNTING SEASONS**

See next page for further details about these hunting seasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Daily Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia &amp; Sora Rail</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2017</td>
<td>25 singly or combined</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple &amp; Common Gallinule</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2017</td>
<td>3 singly or combined</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Nov. 7, 2017 and Jan. 4 - Feb. 28, 2018</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Wood Duck &amp; Teal (includes blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal)</td>
<td>Sept. 16-20, 2017</td>
<td>6 birds with no more than 2 wood ducks</td>
<td>18 birds with no more than 6 wood ducks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teal Only</td>
<td>Sept. 21-24, 2017</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September Canada Goose</td>
<td>Sept. 16-30, 2017</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Waterfowl Days</td>
<td>Eastern Zone: Nov. 4-5, 2017 Western Zone: Feb. 3-4, 2018</td>
<td>Same as duck and goose seasons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SHOOTING HOURS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Shooting Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dove, private land</td>
<td>Sept. 1: 11 a.m. to sunset. Remainder of dove season: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dove, public land (WMAs, leased fields)</td>
<td>Sept. 1 - Oct. 26: 11 a.m. to sunset. Second and third segments of dove season: one-half hour before sunrise to sunset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other species</td>
<td>one-half hour before sunrise to sunset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

Daily limit refers to the number of birds which may be taken during a one-day period. Possession limit applies to transporting birds after two or more days of hunting but does not permit a double daily bag limit in the field.
OTHER SEASON NOTES

DOVE
Eurasian collared doves resemble mourning doves but possess a black slash across the back of their necks. Hunters should not continue to hunt for Eurasian collared doves after reaching the 15-bird daily dove bag limit. Eurasian collared doves cleaned in the field count toward the 15-bird daily dove bag limit. If the head and/or wing remains attached during transport or in the field, hunters may take unlimited numbers of Eurasian collared doves.

CROW
Mechanical devices and electronic attracting devices for crow hunting may only be used during the open season. Crows observed committing or about to commit acts of depredation may be taken year-round; however, persons attempting to take depredating crows must use U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved non-toxic shot, shall not use blinds, decoys, calls or other lures to attract birds into shooting range during the closed season.

EARLY WOOD DUCK, TEAL and CANADA GOOSE
USFWS-approved non-toxic shot no larger than size T is required for all waterfowl hunting. Hunters may not possess or use lead shot while hunting or attempting to take waterfowl.

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE
The following areas are closed to this season:

1. Northeast Goose Zone: Bath, Menifee, Morgan (except the portion in Paintsville Lake WMA) and Rowan counties including Cave Run Lake.
2. West-Central Goose Zone public lands (private lands are open): Muhlenberg County, Ohio County south of Rough River, Butler County west of Hwy. 79 and north of Hwy. 70, and Hopkins County east of Hwys. 814 and Madisonville, and south of Hwy. 85 east of Madisonville.
3. Ballard Zone: Private lands in this zone are now open to this season, public lands remain closed. The portion of Ballard County north or west of the Ballard-McCracken County line to Hwy. 358; Hwy. 358 to U.S. 60; U.S. 60 to the city limits of Wickliffe; the city limits of Wickliffe to the center of the Mississippi River.

Areas manipulated for dove hunting are not legal for waterfowl hunting.

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAYS
Two weekends, one in each duck zone, have been designated for youth only to waterfowl hunt. Hunters under age 16 may take a legal limit of ducks, coots, mergansers and geese on these days. See the 2017-18 Kentucky Hunting Guide for Waterfowl for additional information.

PUBLIC HUNTING

2017 PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS
WMAs and Cooperative Fields
Private fields in the cooperative dove field program are open for public dove hunting Sept. 1 and Sept. 3 - Oct. 26 (except private land Mentor-Youth Hunt sites are closed to the general public Sept. 1-3). Private cooperative fields are closed to public access except on the dates listed above. Prior to the season, hunters may drive by private cooperative fields but may not leave their vehicles to scout.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are open during regular seasons under statewide regulations unless otherwise specified in this guide. Field conditions may vary considerably, even on the same WMA. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife recommends hunters scout fields to ensure they are ready for the time you plan to hunt. When hunting a public area, hunt safely and be courteous of others. Do not leave trash behind. The future of the cooperative dove field program depends on you.
WESTERN KENTUCKY
Ballard County • Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA): U.S. 60 west from Paducah, about 16 miles then right onto Hwy. 310. Travel about 6 miles to stop sign at Hwy. 358. Cross Hwy. 358 and continue on Hwy. 310 to Hwy 1105. Cross Hwy. 1105 onto Mitchell Lake Rd. then travel about 2 miles to fields on both sides of road. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only. • Boatwright WMA: Two fields. Field 1: U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Barlow. In Barlow, turn right onto N. 4th St., for one block to a left onto Holloway Landing Rd. for 2.8 miles. Turn right onto Sallie Crice Rd. for 1.6 miles, then left at Olmstead Unit sign for 0.9 miles to yellow gate. Parking on left. Walk through gate, field on right. Field 2: U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Wickliffe, then right on Hwy. 51 for 2.6 miles to a right into the Swan Unit. Stay on road for 2.5 miles, fields on both sides of road. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.

Carlisle County • Doug Travis WMA: From Bardwell, take Hwy. 123 west for 7 miles to Berkley. Take a right (west) onto Lower River Rd. (Hwy. 1217) for 3.3 miles to a right (east) onto Fish Lake Spur Rd for 0.4 mile to field on right. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.

Livingston County • From Carrolls, take Hwy. 135 east 0.6 mile to field on left.

McCcraken County • West Kentucky WMA, Tract 1: U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Future City, right (north) onto Hwy. 996 for 1.5 miles. Left at stop sign onto Hwy. 725 for 1 mile. Field on right. Tract 4 and 4A: Two fields. From I-24 in Paducah, U.S. 60 west for 10.5 miles, turn right (north) onto Bethel Church Rd., travel about 3.25 miles, turn right onto gravel road for 0.6 mile to mobility-impaired accessible pond. Fields directly north and east of pond. Tract 5: Two fields. U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Future City, then right (north) onto Hwy. 996, for 3.5 miles, then left (west) onto Hwy. 358 for 1.7 miles. Turn right (north) onto Boldry School Rd. for about 1 mile to fields on both sides of road. Tract 7A: One field. U.S. 60 west from Paducah to Hwy. 996 for 3.5 miles, then left onto Hwy. 358 for 1.3 miles to field on right. Hunters on Tracts 4A and 7A must sign-in at check-in box before hunting.

WEST CENTRAL KENTUCKY
Barren County • Barren River Lake WMA, Goose Island Unit: Access from US 31 E to Hwy. 1318.

Breckinridge County • Yellowbank WMA: 20 miles north of Hardinsburg on Hwy. 259; 20 miles west of Brandenburg on Hwy. 144 to Hwy. 259. Two fields, see map at Information Station. On Tract 4, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only (marked by signs).

Crittenden County • Big Rivers WMA: Three fields. Field 1: From Sturgis, take Hwy. 365 south to first gravel road on WMA, field is 1 mile down gravel road on left. Field 2: From Sturgis, take Hwy. 365 south to gravel road 0.1 mile south of WMA office, follow gravel road 0.6 mile to field. Field 3: From Sturgis, take Hwy. 365 south to a right onto Bells Mine Rd. for 2.6 miles to field on right.

Henderson County • Sloughs WMA: Two fields. One field south of Hwy. 268, 2 miles east of the WMA office. One field off Mt. Vernon/Uniontown Rd, just west of Honey Cypress Slough. Follow signs to parking area and field. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.

Muhlenberg/Ohio counties • Peabody WMA: Sinclair Unit, 3 fields; Baker Bottoms Unit, 2 fields; and Ken Unit, 3 fields. User permit required for Peabody WMA, call (270) 476-1889 for more information. • From Western KY Parkway, take the Hwy. 175 exit north to a right just past the parkway onto Graham Cypress Rd. (Hwy. 2693) for 0.5 mile. Take left onto Powerhouse Lane for 0.4 mile to field on right.
onto Levelwoods Rd for 3.2 miles to the field on left, just past Warren Rd.

**Madison County**
- Miller Welch–Central Kentucky WMA: 9 miles southeast of Richmond; from U.S. 421 at Kingston left (east) on Hwy. 3376 (Dreyfus Rd.) for about 2 miles. Turn right (south) onto Muddy Creek Rd. (just past WMA office) to dove fields on right.
- From Interstate I-75 exit 95, take Hwy. 627 east for about 2.5 miles to field on left (north) side of road.

**Mercer County**
- From Bluegrass Parkway exit 59, take U.S. 127 south to Lower Clay Lick Road for 0.5 mile. Follow signs to parking area.
- From Bluegrass Parkway exit 59, take U.S. 127 south for 2 miles to a right onto Wheat School Rd. for 1.4 miles to a right onto Bondville Rd. for 2 miles to a right onto Hawkins Lane. Follow signs to field on right.
- From the Bluegrass Parkway exit 59, travel south on U.S. 127 for 3.8 miles to a right onto Kirkwood Rd. for 0.25 mile, then right onto Bondville Rd., then right onto Crews St. Field on right. **Closed Sept. 1-3 for Mentor/Youth Hunt on Sept. 2; reserve slots online at fw.ky.gov. Field opens to public hunting on Sept. 4.**

**Nelson County**
- From the Bluegrass Parkway exit 25 and travel Hwy. 150 towards Bardstown. Go 0.25 mile to a left onto Pottershop Loop Rd., take first left onto to Pottershop Rd. Travel 2 miles to field on left.

**Shelby County**
- U.S. 60 to Hwy. 395, travel north about 3 miles, then left onto Hwy. 1005 for 2 miles, then left onto Harley Thompson Rd. for 0.25 mile to field on right.

**Spencer County**
- Taylorsville Lake WMA: Two fields. Field 1: Take Hwy. 248 from Taylorsville for 9 miles to a right onto Old Briar Ridge Rd. (at the Country Store). Travel 1.5 miles to fields on left. Field 2: From Taylorsville travel east on Hwy. 248 for 2.1 miles, turn right (south) onto Hwy. 2239/Overlook Rd. Field will be on the right with parking at second gravel lot.

**NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY**

**Bath County**
- Clay WMA, Justice Tract: From I-64 at exit 110, take KY 11 north for 17.8 miles to a left onto Little Flat–Ledford Rd. Travel 0.7 mile to parking area on right.
- From Owingsville, take Hwy. 111 north for 6.5 miles. Field on right on Old Wyoming Road.

**Fleming County**
- Marietta Booth tract of Clay WMA: From Carlisle take Hwy. 32 east for about 12 miles then right at WMA sign. Go 0.3 mile to WMA parking area on left.

**Greenup County**
- South Shore WMA: From South Shore take U.S. 23 east to a left (north) at the South Shore WMA sign for 0.4 mile. Field is adjacent to parking area. **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved, non-toxic shot only.**
- Paintsville Lake WMA: From Paintsville, take Hwy. 40 west for 1.5 miles, turn right onto Hwy. 172 (west) for 14 miles to field on left. From Morehead, take Hwy. 519 south to a left onto U.S. 460, then left onto Hwy. 172 (east) for 15 miles to field on right.

**Pike County**
- Fishtrap Lake WMA: From U.S. 23 south of Pikeville, take U.S. 460 east for about 15.2 miles. Turn left and proceed about 3.2 miles to field.

**SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY**

**Green County**
- From Greensburg, take Hwy. 61 north for 8.1 miles, turn left onto Hwy. 569 for 5.3 miles, then right onto Hwy. 566. Travel 1.4 miles to fields on both sides of the road.
- From Greensburg, U.S. 68 south for 7.3 miles to a right onto Hwy. 218 for 2.1 miles, then left onto Roy Bagby Rd. for 0.7 mile to field at end of road on right.

**Lincoln County**
- From Stanford, take U.S. 27 north for 0.16 mile to a left onto Hwy. 590. Travel 1.5 miles to a gravel lane marked by yellow dove field sign. Turn left and proceed to marked parking area. **Closed Sept. 1-3 for Mentor/Youth Hunt on Sept. 2; reserve slots online at fw.ky.gov. Field opens to public hunting on Sept. 4.**

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**REPORT A POACHER!**

Call **1-800-25ALERT** (1-800-252-5378) to report wildlife law violators. This number is for reporting wildlife and boating violations or similar emergencies only. Operators are not equipped to handle routine requests for information or to transfer calls.

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**CLOSED AREAS**

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**CLOSED TO MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING**

1) The main block of Robinson Forest WMA; 2) the portion of Grayson Lake WMA within three-quarters of a mile of the dam, the Deer Creek Branch, the shores of Camp Webb and the state park; 3) the Greenbrier Creek Branch of Yatesville Lake, including all islands, north of the mouth of Greenbrier Creek Branch; 4) Land Between The Lakes NRA from Sept. 30 - Nov. 30.

**CLOSED TO WATERFOWL HUNTING**

All designated goose refuge lakes within the Western Kentucky coalfields are closed to all waterfowl hunting.

**WATERFOWL REFUGES**

The following areas are waterfowl refuges: portion of Lake Cumberland WMA including Wesley Bend (bounded by Fishing Creek, Fishing Creek Road and Beech Grove Road) and Yellowhole (bounded by Fishing Creek Road and Hickory Nut Road) are closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. Ohio River Waterfowl Refuge (From Smithland Lock and Dam upstream to powerline crossing at river mile 911.5) is closed to hunting Oct. 15 - March 15 and Stewart Island is closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. On Peabody WMA, portions of Sinclair and Homestead mines as marked by signs are closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15. On Sloughs WMA, the Sauerheber Unit is closed to the public Nov. 1-March 15 except the Crenshaw and Duncan tracts which are open for waterfowl hunting only. The area of Yellowbank WMA posted by signs is closed to the public Oct. 15 - March 15.
MENTOR/YOUTH DOVE HUNTS

Fields set aside for Mentor/Youth hunts are open Sept. 2 only to pre-registered hunters (except for Clarks River NWR). On this day, adult dove hunters can introduce a young hunter to the challenge and tradition of the early season dove hunt. Hunts require online pre-registration (see rules below for details). Thereafter, unreserved slots will be available on a first come, first served basis. Mentor/Youth dove fields on wildlife management areas reopen to the public Sept. 3, while private fields operated by the department reopen for general public hunting Sept. 4.

The following rules describe the hunt.

MENTOR/YOUTH HUNT RULES
1. Open only to adults accompanied by a youth (ages 15 and under), though not necessary for the youth to hunt.
2. Both mentor and youth can hunt, but must do so from the same field location (stake). All hunters must stay within 15 feet of their assigned shooting location. One adult may take two youths to these hunts. Two shotguns are allowed per stake. Each hunter is allowed 15 doves.
3. The number of hunters in Mentor/Youth Hunt fields will be strictly limited to ensure a safe and quality hunt.
4. Field slots will be available only by a random computerized drawing. Apply on the department’s website at fw.ky.gov from 8 a.m. EDT Aug. 7, until 4:30 p.m. EDT, Aug. 18. Unreserved slots will be available on a first come, first served basis at the field on the day of the hunt until all slots are filled.
5. Hunting groups must check in prior to hunting and check out prior to leaving the field with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife staff and carry a department provided notification letter.
6. After the field is filled no new hunting groups will be allowed in.
7. Hunting groups in the field may move to different staked sites when the assigned group vacates that site.
8. Hunters must leave their guns at their shooting location (stake) when retrieving downed birds.
9. Shooting hours limited to 2-7 p.m., local time. All hunting groups must be out of the field by 7:30 p.m., local time.
10. All hunters will be responsible for cleaning up their shooting location (including empty shells) prior to leaving the field.
11. Mentors and youth must conduct themselves in a safe manner and abide by these and other rules posted at the hunt field. Failure to do so will result in termination of hunting privilege for that field that day.
12. Hunter education and licensing requirements apply.
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