

# Summary of Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Seasons Dates

Below you will find a season summary so you can start planning your hunting trips. Please refer to the Hunting and Trapping Guide for the latest detailed hunting dates, bag limits, zones, units, and required licenses and/or permits.

G = Gun • M = Muzzleloader • A = Archery • S = Shotgun

Out-of-State Hunters - Be aware of carcass importation restrictions for deer, elk, moose and caribou. [CWDinTennessee.com \(/content/tn/twra/hunting/cwd.html\)](http://CWDinTennessee.com/content/tn/twra/hunting/cwd.html)

## Deer

### Deer Season Dates and Bag Limits

| Season Type                                                              | Season Dates                                    | Statewide Antlered Bag Limit | Units 1, 2, & 3 Antlerless Bag Limits | Units 4, 5 & 6 Antlerless Bag Limits |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| August*                                                                  | Aug. 28 - Aug. 30, 2026                         |                              | No Antlerless Harvest                 | No Antlerless Harvest                |
| Young Sportsman** (G/M/A)                                                | Oct. 31 - Nov 1, 2026<br>Jan. 9 - 10, 2027      |                              |                                       | 2                                    |
| Archery (A)                                                              | Sept. 26 - Oct 30, 2026<br>Nov. 2 - Nov 6, 2026 | 2 (1/day)***                 |                                       | 4                                    |
| Muzzleloader/Archery (M/A)****                                           | Nov. 7 - Nov. 20, 2026                          |                              | 3/day                                 | 2                                    |
| Single Shot, Straight-walled Cartridge Rifles, on Private Lands Only**** | Nov. 14-20, 2026                                |                              |                                       |                                      |
| Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery (G/M/A)                                         | Nov. 21, 2026 - Jan. 3, 2027                    |                              |                                       | 2                                    |

\*Archery only. Private lands and select Unit 1 WMAs only. See [individual WMA regulations](https://content.tn.twra/wildlife-management-areas.html).  
([/content/tn/twra/wildlife-management-areas.html](https://content.tn.twra/wildlife-management-areas.html))

\*\* Youths 6–16 years of age may participate using a gun, muzzleloader, or archery equipment (G/M/A). Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange/pink regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single, qualifying adult. Antlerless bag limits for Units 4, 5, and 6 are not to exceed a total of 2 antlerless deer for the four (4) days combined.

\*\*\* Bag limit may be exceeded only if taken as a bonus deer (only on certain WMAs) ([/content/tn/twra/wildlife-management-areas.html](https://content.tn.twra/wildlife-management-areas.html)), under the Earn-A-Buck program ([/content/tn/twra/hunting/cwd/cwd-management-and-incentive-programs.html#earn-a-buck](https://content.tn.twra/hunting/cwd/cwd-management-and-incentive-programs.html#earn-a-buck)) in a CWD-positive county, or as a Replacement Buck. ([/content/tn/twra/hunting/cwd/cwd-management-and-incentive-programs.html#earn-a-buck](https://content.tn.twra/hunting/cwd/cwd-management-and-incentive-programs.html#earn-a-buck))

\*\*\*\* Single shot rifles using straight-walled cartridge ammunition that, as manufactured, are not capable of containing multiple rounds, .35 caliber or larger, are legal to be used on private lands only Nov. 14 - Nov. 20, 2026. Harvested deer count toward the muzzleloader season bag limit.

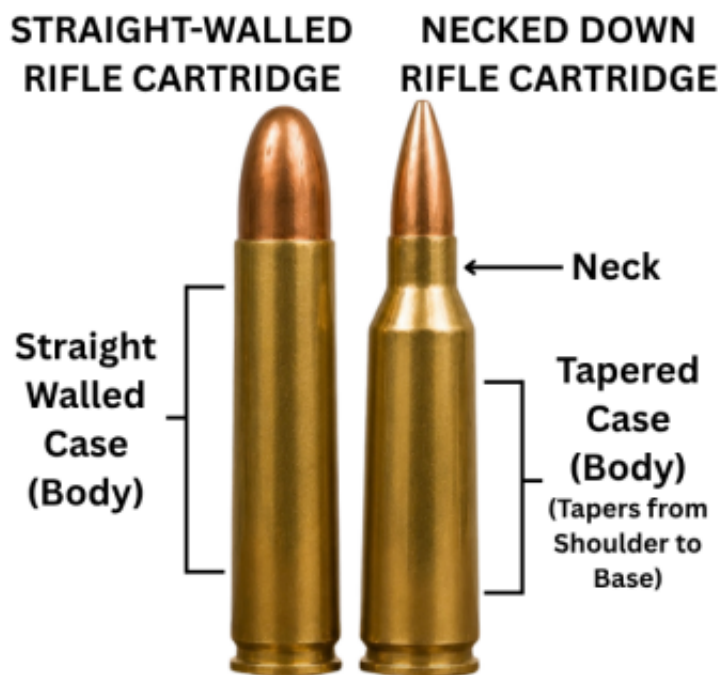


Image of straight-walled rifle cartridge vs necked down rifle cartridge.

## Deer Management Units





(/content/dam/tn/twra/images/hunting/DeerMgmtUnits\_2024.png)

Unit 1 includes Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lauderdale, Lake, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley counties.

Unit 2 includes Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lincoln, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Perry, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, Wayne, and Williamson counties.

Unit 3 includes Bedford, Cannon, Clay, Coffee, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Macon, Moore, Overton, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White, and Wilson counties.

Unit 4 includes Anderson, Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Grundy, Hancock, Morgan, Pickett, Scott, Sequatchie, and Union counties.

Unit 5 includes Bradley, Hamilton, Loudon, Knox, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, and Roane counties.

Unit 6 includes Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Monroe, Polk, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties.

### **CWD Management Zone for Carcass Transportation**

These restrictions have been put in place to reduce the spread of chronic wasting disease to areas outside of the primary affected region. Restricting wide-ranging carcass movement can lower the risk of an infected deer carcass becoming a source of infection in a new area.

Deer carcass transportation restrictions apply to the CWD Management Zone, and only approved parts may be moved out of the CWD Management Zone. All other regulations (e.g., DMU, season dates, bag limits, etc.) remain the same unless changed by the TFWC.

The CWD Management Zone includes Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Madison, McNairy, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley Counties. Approved parts (i.e., deboned meat, clean skulls, skull plates and teeth, antlers, finished taxidermy, hides, and tanned products) may be moved freely within Tennessee. There are restrictions on moving unapproved parts (i.e., whole or undressed carcasses) from inside the CWD Management Zone to other parts of the state.





(/content/dam/tn/twra/images/cwd/TWRA\_CWD\_Management\_Zone\_Map.jpg)

Visit [CWD Management Zone for Carcass Transportation Regulations \(/content/tn/twra/hunting/cwd/deer-carcass-transport-disposal.html#carcasstransportationrestrictions\)](/content/tn/twra/hunting/cwd/deer-carcass-transport-disposal.html#carcasstransportationrestrictions) for more details.

[Detailed information, regulations, safety guidelines, and hunting areas for deer hunting in Tennessee. \(/content/tn/twra/hunting/big-game/deer.html\)](/content/tn/twra/hunting/big-game/deer.html)

Elk

Elk Hunting Season Dates & Bag Limits

Elk harvest is regulated by a [quota permit system. \(/content/tn/twra/hunting/quota-hunts/elk-and-youth-elk-hunts.html\)](/content/tn/twra/hunting/quota-hunts/elk-and-youth-elk-hunts.html) Nineteen (19) quota permits will be issued for the hunt. Each permit holder will be allocated an Elk Hunt Zone.

**The application period for the 2026 elk quota hunts was February 4 – 25, 2026.**

**The application period for the 2027 elk quota hunts is February 3 - 27, 2027.**

Applications are available at TWRA license agents and [online \(https://gooutdoorstennessee.com/\)](https://gooutdoorstennessee.com/).

2026 Season

| SEASON TYPE                                              | SEASON DATES            | QUOTA PERMIT    | HUNT AREA***                              | BAG LIMIT                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ARCHERY - ONLY SEASON                                    | Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, 2026 | 9 Quota Permits | EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA | 1 antlered elk per permit |
| GUN/MUZZLE<br>LOADER/ARCHERY SEASON *                    | Oct. 3 –9, 2026         | 9 Quota Permits | EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA | 1 antlered elk per permit |
| YOUNG SPORTSMAN**<br>GUN/MUZZLE<br>LOADER/ARCHERY SEASON | Oct. 10–16, 2026        | 1 Quota Permit  | EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA | 1 antlered elk per permit |

\* The season for the permit issued to a non-profit conservation organization is Oct. 3–9, 2026, in EHZ one and

private lands in counties opened by TWRA.

\*\* Resident youths 13–16 may apply for a quota permit. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange/pink regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Youth hunters must complete hunter education or purchase the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption permit (along with other required licenses) to participate in the hunt.

\*\*\* EHZs are located on North Cumberland WMA only; all other public land is CLOSED to elk hunting. Hunting on private lands within the following counties is allowed only with landowner permission: Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Morgan and Scott counties.

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## 2027 Season

| SEASON TYPE                                              | SEASON DATES            | QUOTA PERMIT    | HUNT AREA***                              | BAG LIMIT                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ARCHERY - ONLY SEASON                                    | Sept. 25 – Oct. 1, 2027 | 9 Quota Permits | EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA | 1 antlered elk per permit |
| GUN/MUZZLE<br>LOADER/ARCHERY SEASON *                    | Oct. 2 –8, 2027         | 9 Quota Permits | EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA | 1 antlered elk per permit |
| YOUNG SPORTSMAN**<br>GUN/MUZZLE<br>LOADER/ARCHERY SEASON | Oct. 9–15, 2027         | 1 Quota Permit  | EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA | 1 antlered elk per permit |

\* The season for the permit issued to a non-profit conservation organization is Oct. 2–8, 2027, in EHZ one and private lands in counties opened by TWRA.

\*\* Resident youths 13–16 may apply for a quota permit. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange/pink regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Youth hunters must complete hunter education or purchase the Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption permit (along with other required licenses) to participate in the hunt.

\*\*\* EHZs are located on North Cumberland WMA only; all other public land is CLOSED to elk hunting. Hunting on private lands within the following counties is allowed only with landowner permission: Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Morgan and Scott counties.

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Detailed information, regulations, safety guidelines, and hunting areas for Elk hunting in Tennessee. (/content/tn/twra/hunting/big-game/elk.html)

Black Bear

Bear Season Dates and Bag Limits

The Hunts Listed Below Allow the Use of Hounds

| Weapon Type(s) Allowed        |                   | BHZ1                          | BHZ2                          | BHZ3                                                                    | BHZ4                                              | BHZ5                                                     | Transiti<br>onal<br>Zone                                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Gun/Muzzleload<br>er/ Archery | Early-<br>seasons | Oct. 3 – 5,<br>2026           | Oct. 3 – 18,<br>2026          | Oct. 3 – 4,<br>2026                                                     | —                                                 |                                                          |                                                          |
|                               |                   | Oct. 10 – 11,<br>2026         |                               | Oct. 10 – 16,<br>2026                                                   |                                                   |                                                          |                                                          |
|                               | Mid-<br>season    | Nov. 9 – 16,<br>2026          | Nov. 2 - 6,<br>2026           | Nov. 2 - 6,<br>2026                                                     | —                                                 | Closed to<br>the use of<br>hounds<br>for bear<br>hunting | Closed to<br>the use of<br>hounds<br>for bear<br>hunting |
|                               | Late<br>Seasons   | Nov. 30 –<br>Dec. 16,<br>2026 | Nov. 30 -<br>Dec. 15,<br>2026 | Nov. 30 -<br>Dec. 13,<br>2026<br><br>Dec. 31,<br>2026 – Jan.<br>3, 2027 | Dec. 12 – 13,<br>2026<br><br>Private Land<br>Only |                                                          |                                                          |

Kettlefoot and Laurel Fork Bear Reserve Hunt – PRIVATE LANDS ONLY – Sept. 19–25, 2026

The Hunts Listed Below are Still Hunting Only - No Hounds Allowed

| Weapon Type(s) Allowed                                                     | BHZ1                     | BHZ2                     | BHZ3                     | BHZ4                                        | BHZ5                                        | Transitional Zone        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Archery Only                                                               | Sept. 26 – Oct. 23, 2026 | Sept. 26 – Oct. 23, 2026 | Sept. 26 – Oct. 23, 2026 | Sept. 26 – Oct. 23, 2026                    | Sept. 26 – Oct. 23, 2026                    | Sept. 26 – Oct. 23, 2026 |
| Gun/Muzz/Archery (Young Sportsman Only*)                                   | Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2026   | Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2026   | Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2026   | Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2026<br>Private Land Only | Oct. 31 – Nov. 1, 2026<br>Private Land Only | -                        |
| Gun/Muzz/Archery                                                           | Nov. 21 – 24, 2026       | Nov. 21 – 24, 2026       | Nov. 21 – 24, 2026       | -                                           | Dec. 12 – 13, 2026<br>Private Land Only     |                          |
| * Youths 6-16 may participate; must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult. |                          |                          |                          |                                             |                                             |                          |

BAG LIMIT IS 1 BEAR OF EITHER SEX PER YEAR - Bear Reserves, Mt. Roosevelt WMA, State Parks, Scott State Forest, National Parks, and Recreation Areas are closed to bear hunting unless otherwise stated.

BHZ1: Carter, Cocke (North of I-40), Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties.

BHZ2: Blount, Cocke (South of I-40), Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), and Sevier counties.

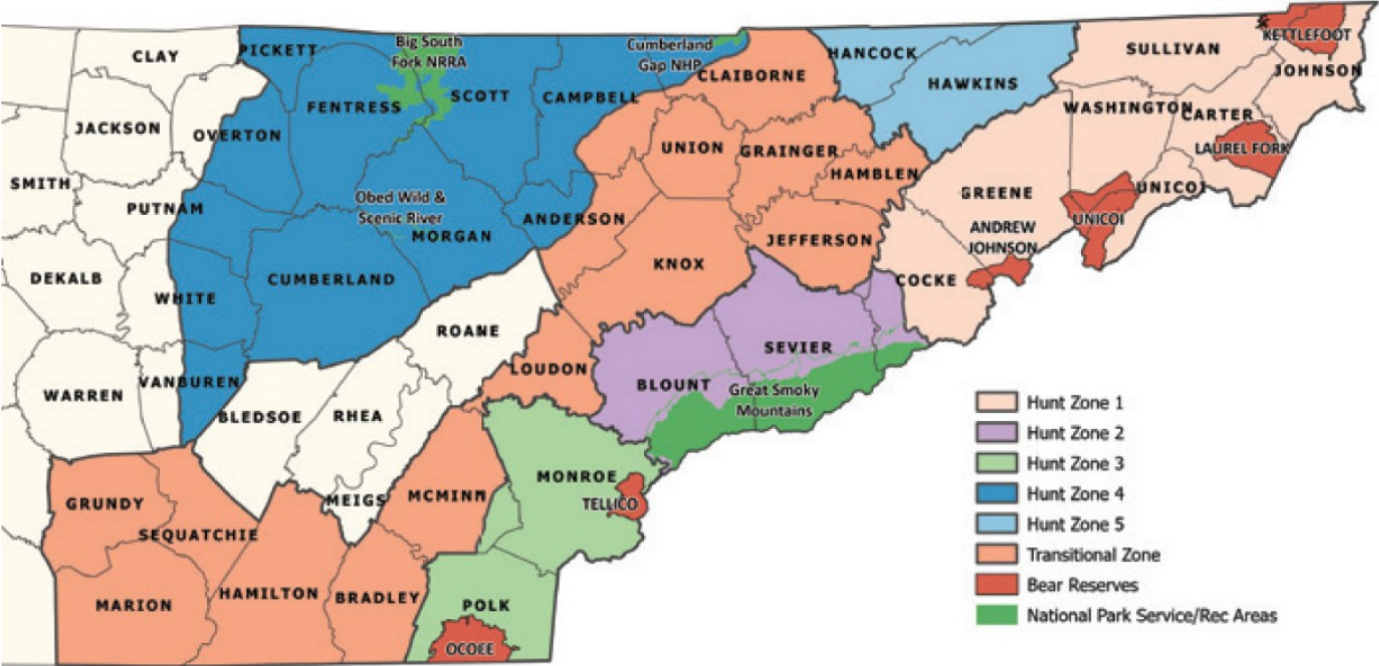
BHZ3: McMinn (East of Hwy 411), Monroe, and Polk counties, excluding South Cherokee WMA.

BHZ4: Anderson (west of I-75 and north of Old Lake City Hwy and north of Dutch Valley Rd.), Campbell (north of Hwy 63 and west of I-75), Claiborne (west of 25E and north of Hwy 63), Cumberland, Fentress, Morgan, Overton (east of Hwy 111), Pickett, Putnam (east of Hwy 111), Scott, Van Buren (east of Hwy 111), and White (east of Hwy 111) counties.

BHZ5: Hancock and Hawkins

Transitional: Anderson (east of I-75 and south of Old Lake City Hwy and south of Dutch Valley Rd.), Bradley, Campbell (south of Hwy 63 and east of I-75), Claiborne (east of 25E and south of Hwy 63), Grundy, Marion, Hamblen, Hamilton, Grainger, Jefferson (west of Hwy 411), Knox, Loudon, McMinn (West of Hwy 411), Sequatchie, and Union counties.





(/content/dam/tn/twra/images/hunting/bear/2024-bear-hunt-zones.jpg)

[Detailed information, regulations, safety guidelines, and hunting areas for Turkey hunting in Tennessee.](#)  
(/content/tn/twra/hunting/big-game/turkey.html)

Fall Turkey

Fall Turkey Season Dates and Bag Limits

| Statewide       | Season Dates             | Bag Limit                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                 | Sept. 26 - Oct. 30, 2026 |                                               |
| Archery Only    | Nov. 2 - Nov. 6, 2026    | One (1) male turkey. No bearded hens allowed. |
| Shotgun/Archery | Oct. 17 - 30, 2026       |                                               |

Open in all counties, except closed in Crockett, Dyer, Giles, Haywood, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lincoln, Shelby, Tipton, and Wayne counties.

During the fall turkey season, a turkey hunter may not be in possession of both archery equipment and shotguns and/or rifles. Any turkey harvested during the fall season counts toward the statewide bag limit of one (1).

[Detailed information, regulations, safety guidelines, and hunting areas for Turkey hunting in Tennessee.](#)  
(/content/tn/twra/hunting/big-game/turkey.html)



## Spring Turkey

# Spring Turkey Seasons Dates & Limits

All counties are open to spring turkey seasons, however, there are some exceptions on WMAs and public lands. Birds may be harvested from any combination of Turkey Management. [General Turkey Hunting Regulations apply.](#) (/content/tn/twra/hunting/big-game/turkey.html#regulations) Spring Turkey Shooting Hours are Thirty (30) minutes before legal sunrise to sunset.

**No hens (including bearded hens) are legal to harvest.**

| Statewide        | Season Dates           | Bag Limit                                                                                        |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Young Sportsman* | March 27 - 28, 2027    | One (1) male turkey per day, counts toward spring season bag of two (2), only one can be a jake. |
| General Season   | April 3 - May 16, 2027 | No bearded hens allowed.                                                                         |

An adult gobbler is defined by having one of the following: wing feathers have white barring all the way to the tip, tail feathers are the same length, beard is longer than 6 inches, or a spur is at least 1/2 inch long.

All counties are open to spring turkey seasons, however there are some exceptions on public land.

\*Any turkey harvested during the Young Sportsman Hunt counts toward the statewide spring season limit of two (2).

### Statewide Spring Turkey Young Sportsman Hunt

Ages 6-16. One (1) male turkey per day, which counts toward the statewide bag of two (2), only one can be a jake. Each young sportsman must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device. Youth 10 years of age or older must meet Hunter Education requirements. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single non-hunting adult, who is not required to have a license.

Game Birds

Game Bird Season Dates and Bag Limits

| SPECIES | DATE                          | BAG LIMIT |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Grouse  | Oct. 10, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 | 3         |
| Quail   | Nov. 7, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027  | 6         |
|         |                               |           |
|         |                               |           |

Migratory Birds

Migratory Bird Season Dates and Bag Limits

| SPECIES                | SEASON DATES                            | DAILY BAG**** |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
|                        | Sept. 1, opens at noon - Sept. 28, 2026 |               |
| Dove*                  | Oct. 10 - Nov. 1, 2026                  | 15**          |
|                        | Dec. 8, 2026 - Jan. 15, 2027            |               |
|                        |                                         |               |
| Woodcock*              | Nov. 14 - Dec. 6, 2026                  | 3             |
|                        | Jan. 10 - Jan. 31, 2027                 |               |
|                        |                                         |               |
| Gallinule and Moorhen* | Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2026                  | 15            |
|                        |                                         |               |
|                        | June 12 - July 12, 2026***              |               |
|                        | Sept. 1 - Sept. 7, 2026                 |               |

|      |                             |          |
|------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Crow | Sept. 11 - Dec. 20, 2026*** | No limit |
|      | Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2027      |          |
|      | June 11 - July 11, 2027***  |          |

|                            |                               |    |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| Rails (Virginia and Sora)* | Sept. 1 - Nov. 9, 2026        | 25 |
| Snipe *                    | Nov. 14, 2026 - Feb. 28, 2027 | 8  |

\* Tennessee Migratory Bird Permit required.

\*\* No limit on Eurasian collared doves; however, any doves not readily identifiable as Eurasian collared doves will be considered mourning doves and count towards the mourning dove daily bag and possession limits.

\*\*\* Hunting allowed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only.

\*\*\*\* The possession limit is three (3) times the daily limit for all migratory game birds, except opening day when it shall be the same as the daily bag limit, and the second day of the season when it shall be twice the daily bag limit, and except for crows which have no limit.

## Geese Season Dates and Bag Limits

| SPECIES<br>( <a href="https://gooutdoorstennessee.com/">https://gooutdoorstennessee.com/</a> ) | STATEWIDE                    | DAILY<br>BAG LIMIT | POSSESSION LIMIT                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                | Sept. 1 – 20, 2026           | 5                  |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                | Oct. 10 – 22, 2026           |                    |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Canada Goose                                                                                   | Nov. 28 – 29, 2026           | 3                  |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                | Dec. 5, 2026 – Feb. 14, 2027 |                    |                                                                                                                                                                               |
| White-Fronted Goose                                                                            | Nov. 28 – 29, 2026           | 3                  | The possession limit for Canada goose, white-fronted goose, and brant is three (3) times the daily bag limit, except on opening day and the second day of the season when the |
|                                                                                                | Dec. 5, 2026 – Feb. 14, 2027 |                    |                                                                                                                                                                               |

second day of the season when the possession limit is one (1) and two (2) times the daily bag limit, respectively.

|       |                              |   |
|-------|------------------------------|---|
|       | Sept. 1–20, 2026             |   |
| Brant | Oct. 10–22, 2026             | 1 |
|       | Nov. 28–29, 2026             |   |
|       | Dec. 5, 2026 – Feb. 14, 2027 |   |

|                                         |                                                                                          |    |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Blue, Snow & Ross's Geese (Light Geese) | Standard federal regulations apply (unplugged shotguns and electronic calls NOT allowed) | 20 |
|                                         | Sept. 1–20, 2026                                                                         |    |
|                                         | Oct. 10–22, 2026                                                                         |    |
|                                         | Nov. 28–29, 2026                                                                         |    |
|                                         | Dec. 5, 2026 – Feb. 14, 2027                                                             |    |

There is no possession limit for blue, snow and Ross's geese, except on opening day and the second day of the season when the possession limit is the daily bag limit and two (2) times the daily bag limit, respectively.

|                                                              |                                                                                 |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Light Goose Conservation Season* (Blue, Snow & Ross's Geese) | The following provisions apply during the Light Goose Conservation Season only: | no limit |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|

There is no possession limit for blue, snow and Ross's geese during the Light Goose Conservation Season.

Unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, shooting from 30 minutes before official sunrise until 30 minutes after official sunset.

Feb. 15 – Mar. 31, 2027

\*A free Light Goose Conservation Season Permit is required to hunt during the Conservation Season, available at <https://gooutdoors.tennessee.gov/About/Permits/Light-Goose-Conservation-Season-Permit>

[GoOutdoors Tennessee.com \(https://gooutdoorstennessee.com/\)](https://gooutdoorstennessee.com/). No Federal or state waterfowl stamps are required to hunt during the Conservation Season. Hunters must possess a Tennessee Light Goose Conservation Season Permit and have a valid hunting license, but the license may be from any state. A post-season survey is required.

# Duck Season Dates and Bag Limits

|                                                      |                                                   |                                                   |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Early Application<br>Dates: Sept. 23 – Oct. 13, 2026 | Mid Application<br>Dates: Oct. 21 – Nov. 10, 2026 | Late Application<br>Dates: Nov. 18 – Dec. 8, 2026 | Season Long Application<br>Dates: June 24 – July 15, 2026                  |
| Includes hunt days: Nov. 28- 29 & Dec. 5 - 21, 2026  | Includes hunt days: Dec. 22, 2026 & Jan. 11, 2027 | Includes hunt days: Jan. 12 – 31, 2027            | Tier 1 Blind Hunt Dates: Nov. 28 – 29, 2026 & Dec. 5, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027 |

| SPECIES                        | STATEWIDE                                             | DAILY BAG LIMIT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | POSSESSION LIMIT                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wood Duck & Teal               | Sept. 12 –16, 2026                                    | The daily bag limit of ducks is 6 birds/day, which may include no more than 2 wood ducks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | The possession limit is three (3) times the daily bag limit, except on opening day and the second day of the season, when the possession limit is one (1) and two (2) times the daily bag limit, respectively. |
| Ducks, Coot & Mergansers       | Nov. 28 – 29, 2026<br><br>Dec. 5, 2026 –Jan. 31, 2027 | Coot: 15<br><br>Ducks: The daily bag limit of ducks is 6 birds/day which may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be a female), 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, 3 pintails, and 1 mottled duck.<br><br>The daily bag limit for scaup is 1 scaup from Nov. 28-30, 2026 & Dec. 5–17, 2026 then 2 scaup from Dec. 18, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2027.<br><br>Mergansers: 5 (only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Youth Sportsman Waterfowl Hunt | Feb. 6 and 13, 2027                                   | Same as regular season daily bag limits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

|                                          |                     |                                          |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Veterans and Active Military Personnel** | Feb. 7 and 14, 2027 | Same as regular season daily bag limits. |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|

\* Only youth hunters from ages 6–16 years may harvest coot, gallinule, moorhen, ducks, mergansers, and geese during the Youth Waterfowl hunt days. Youth aged 16 are still required to possess a valid Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp). Non-hunting adults at least 21 years of age shall accompany the youth hunter(s) into the field during the youth waterfowl season and must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult; however, adults and other persons accompanying youths shall not hunt during these youth waterfowl hunts. Adults not accompanied by youths 6–16 may still harvest geese during those dates. Geese, coot, gallinule, moorhen, and ducks may be taken by youths during the Youth Waterfowl Season. WMAs with special closing times are open all day, each day of the Youth Waterfowl Season.

\*\* Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate and harvest coot, gallinule, moorhen, ducks, mergansers, and geese. During the Veterans and Active Military Personnel waterfowl season, non-veteran or non-active duty personnel may be present; however, only veterans or active military persons may hunt. When other migratory gamebird seasons are open during the Veterans and Active Military Personnel waterfowl season, any properly licensed youth or adult not accompanied by veterans or active military may harvest legal game.

## Sandhill Crane Season Dates and Bag Limits

| SPECIES               | STATEWIDE                                                                                                                                            | SOUTHEAST CRANE<br>ZONE SOUTH OF<br>INTERSTATE 40 AND EAST<br>OF HIGHWAY 56 | DAILY BAG LIMIT AND<br>POSSESSION LIMIT*                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       | Dec. 3, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027                                                                                                                         | Dec. 3, 2026 – Jan. 14, 2027                                                |                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Sandhill Crane</b> | Statewide tags are valid statewide, including the Southeast Crane Zone, except during the three (3) day closure in that zone from Jan. 15– 17, 2027. | Jan. 18 – 31, 2027                                                          | The daily bag, season bag, and possession limit for sandhill cranes is based on the number of tags awarded to an individual. |

\* Each harvested crane must be accompanied by a completed kill tag (each tag allows harvest of one (1) crane) and

Each harvested crane must be accompanied by a completed kill tag (each tag allows harvest of one (1) crane) and be checked in by the end of the calendar day of harvest by any Agency approved check-in method. Also, hunters issued sandhill crane tags MUST fill out and return a post-season survey before February 10, regardless of whether they hunted or harvested a sandhill crane. Failure to return the post-season survey may result in hunters not being eligible to apply for a sandhill crane tag in future draws.

## Falconry

# Falconry Season Dates & Permits

Hunting with falcons is the second oldest form of hunting with the aid of animals. Most historians and archaeologists agree that the sport of falconry originated in China. The first tangible evidence of falconry appears in 4,000 year old artwork from Persia.

Falconry is the sport of taking wildlife by means of a trained raptor. A person may not practice falconry in Tennessee without obtaining a proper TWRA permit.

[Find Permit Information here. \(/content/tn/twra/law-enforcement/permits/falconry.html\)](https://content/tn/twra/law-enforcement/permits/falconry.html)

| Species                   | Season Opens                   | Season Closes                  | Daily Bag Limit |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Crow – Phase 1            | June 12, 2026<br>June 11, 2027 | July 12, 2026<br>July 11, 2027 | No Limit        |
| Crow - Phase 2            | Sep. 1, 2026                   | Sep. 7, 2026                   | No Limit        |
| Crow - Phase 3            | Sep. 11, 2026                  | Dec. 20, 2026                  | No Limit        |
| Crow - Phase 4            | Jan. 1, 2027                   | Feb. 28, 2027                  | No Limit        |
| Rails - Sora and Virginia | Sep. 1, 2026                   | Dec. 12, 2026                  | 3               |
| Moorhens and Gallinules   | Sep. 1, 2026                   | Dec. 12, 2026                  | 3               |
| Dove – Phase 1            | Sep. 1, 2026                   | Sep. 30, 2026                  | 3               |
| Dove - Phase 2            | Oct. 10, 2026                  | Nov. 1, 2026                   | 3               |
| Dove - Phase 3            | Dec. 8, 2026                   | Jan. 30, 2027                  | 3               |
| Wood Duck and Teal        | Sep. 12, 2026                  | Sep. 16, 2026                  | 3               |
| Ducks, Mergansers, Coots  | Nov. 28, 2026                  | Feb. 28, 2027                  | 3               |
| Snipe                     | Nov. 14, 2026                  | Feb. 28, 2027                  | 3               |
| Woodcock                  | Nov. 1, 2026                   | Feb. 15, 2027                  | 3               |
| Grouse                    | Jul. 4, 2026                   | Apr. 24, 2027                  | 3               |
| Rabbit                    | Jul. 4, 2026                   | Apr. 24, 2027                  | 5               |
| Ouail                     | Jul. 4, 2026                   | Apr. 24, 2027                  | 6               |



|                                                                                                                 |              |               |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| Squirrel                                                                                                        | Jul. 4, 2026 | Apr. 24, 2027 | 10       |
| Groundhog, Coyote, Striped Skunk,<br>Beaver, Fox, Mink, Muskrat, Opossum,<br>Spotted Skunk, Weasel, River Otter | Jul. 4, 2026 | Apr. 24, 2027 | No Limit |
| Bobcat and Raccoon                                                                                              | Jul. 4, 2026 | Apr. 24, 2027 | 1        |

### Small Game and Furbearer

## Small Game and Furbearer Season Dates and Bag Limits

| SPECIES              | OPENING DATE               | CLOSING DATE                   | DAILY BAG |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Squirrel             | Aug. 22, 2026              | March 15, 2027                 | 10        |
| Spring Squirrel 2026 | May 7, 2026<br>May 8, 2027 | June 14, 2026<br>June 13, 2027 | 10        |
| Rabbit               | Nov. 7, 2026               | Feb. 28, 2027                  | 5         |
| Grouse               | Oct. 10, 2026              | Feb. 28, 2027                  | 3         |
| Quail*               | Nov. 7, 2026               | Feb. 28, 2027                  | 6         |
| Beaver               | year-round                 |                                | None      |
| Coyote               | year-round                 |                                | None      |

|                                   |                       |                        |      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------|
|                                   | Sunset Jun. 6, 2026   | Sunrise Aug. 9, 2026   |      |
| Coyote Night Season               | Sunset Jan 16, 2027   | Sunrise March 14, 2027 | None |
|                                   | Sunset June 5, 2027   | Sunrise August 8, 2027 |      |
| Groundhog                         | year-round            |                        | None |
| Striped Skunk                     | year-round            |                        | None |
| Armadillo                         | year-round            |                        | None |
| Fox                               | Nov. 20, 2026         | Feb. 28, 2027          | None |
| Mink                              | Nov. 20, 2026         | Feb. 28, 2027          | None |
| Muskrat                           | Nov. 20, 2026         | Feb. 28, 2027          | None |
| Otter**                           | Nov. 20, 2026         | Feb. 28, 2027          | None |
| Least Weasel                      | Nov. 20, 2026         | Feb. 28, 2027          | None |
| Raccoon Private Lands Only        | Year-round            |                        | 4    |
| Raccoon Taking Season             | Sunset Sept. 18, 2026 | Sunrise Mar. 15, 2027  | 4    |
| Opossum Private Lands Only        | Year-round            |                        | 4    |
| Opossum Taking Season             | Sunset Sept. 18, 2026 | Sunrise Mar. 15, 2027  | 4    |
| Bobcat *** Private Lands Only**** | Sept. 26, 2026        | Nov. 19, 2026          | 1    |

|                                 |                     |                         |    |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----|
| Bobcat*** Statewide             | Nov. 20, 2026       | Feb. 28, 2027           | 1  |
|                                 | Sunset Jun. 6, 2026 | Sunrise Aug. 9, 2026    |    |
| Bobcat Night Private Lands Only | Sunset Jan 16, 2027 | Sunrise March 14, 2027  | 1  |
|                                 | Sunset June 5, 2027 | Sunrise August 8, 2027  |    |
| Bullfrog                        | year-round          | Except state lakes***** | 20 |

\* Quail season is November 1, 2026 – January 15, 2027 on wildlife management areas unless otherwise noted.

\*\* All river otters harvested must be tagged with Tennessee U. S. CITES tags. Contact your regional TWRA office for instructions.

\*\*\* Bobcat pelts must be tagged with Tennessee U.S. CITES tags before being exported from the U. S. Contact your regional TWRA office for instructions.

\*\*\*\* Bobcats may be harvested with firearms, muzzleloader, or archery during deer season including during the young sportsman deer hunts. Weapons should match the open deer season weapon.

\*\*\*\*\* Bullfrog season is June 1–30 on TWRA-managed lakes. Firearms are prohibited, but airguns are permitted. No WMA permit is required.

## Trapping

# Trapping Season Dates and Bag Limits

| SPECIES | OPENING DATE | CLOSING DATE | DAILY BAG |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Beaver  | year-round   |              | None      |
| Coyote  | year-round   |              | None      |

|               |               |               |            |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Groundhog     | year-round    |               | None       |
| Opossum       | year-round    |               | None       |
| Striped Skunk | year-round    |               | None       |
| Raccoon       | year-round    |               | None       |
| Fox           | Nov. 20, 2026 | Feb. 28, 2027 | None       |
| Mink          | Nov. 20, 2026 | Feb. 28, 2027 | None       |
| Muskrat       | Nov. 20, 2026 | Feb. 28, 2027 | None       |
| Otter*        | Nov. 20, 2026 | Feb. 28, 2027 | None       |
| Least Weasel  | Nov. 20, 2026 | Feb. 28, 2027 | None       |
| Bobcat**      | Nov. 20, 2026 | Feb. 28, 2027 | Day - None |

\* All river otters harvested must be tagged with Tennessee U. S. CITES tags. Contact your [regional TWRA office \(/content/tn/twra/contact-us.html\)](/content/tn/twra/contact-us.html) for instructions.

\*\* Bobcat pelts must be tagged with Tennessee U.S. CITES tags before being exported from the U. S. Contact your [regional TWRA office \(/content/tn/twra/contact-us.html\)](/content/tn/twra/contact-us.html) for instructions.

Wild Hog

Wild hogs are invasive exotic animals that cause extensive damage to crops and wildlife habitats, contribute to erosion and water pollution, and carry diseases harmful to livestock and humans. In Tennessee, they are classified as a species deemed destructive, and it is illegal to possess, transport, or release live wild hogs.

See the [Wild Hog page \(/content/tn/twra/wildlife/mammals/large/wild-hog.html\)](/content/tn/twra/wildlife/mammals/large/wild-hog.html) for Private and Public Land Control Exemptions and Assistance.

A banner with a green background and an orange arrow pointing right. The text "Simplified Regulations Search" is in white.

## Simplified Regulations Search



([https://prod.huntregsapp.com/regulations?](https://prod.huntregsapp.com/regulations?utm_campaign=tennesseefall25&utm_medium=website&utm_source=license-and-permit&state_id=43)

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A banner with a dark blue background on the left and a photo of two ducks on a rock on the right. The text "TWRA UPDATES" is in large white letters, and "CLICK TO SIGN UP" is in smaller white letters with a cursor icon pointing to it.

## TWRA UPDATES

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(</content/tn/twra/sign-up-for-email.html>)

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