

## Regulation Change Notification: Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Colorado 2021-2022

Prepared by: Jim Gammonley, Draft 20 November 2020

These CPW staff proposals for regulations for migratory game bird hunting seasons (Chapter W-5) in Colorado are preliminary and contingent upon final federal regulation frameworks. Federal frameworks for 2021-2022 are expected to be published in the federal register in January 2021, and the proposed season dates and bag/possession limits presented below assume no changes to 2020-2021 federal frameworks, except as noted with an asterisk. The proposed season dates include adjustments for the 2021-2022 calendar, and adjustments for waterfowl and crane seasons to provide an open season during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Season	2021-2022 Proposed Regulations			2020-2021 Regulations		
	Proposed dates	Days	Daily bag limit	Dates	Days	Daily bag limit
Sora and Virginia Rail	Sep 1-Nov 9	70	25	Sep 1- Nov 9	70	25
Snipe	Sep 1-Dec 16	107	8	Sep 1-Dec 16	107	8
Band-tailed Pigeon	Sep 1-14	14	2	Sep 1-14	14	2
Doves (Mourning, White-winged)	Sep 1-Nov 29	90	15	Sep 1-Nov 29	90	15
Sandhill Crane (regular season)	Oct 2-Nov 28	58	3	Oct 3-Nov 29	58	3
Crow	Nov 1-Feb 28	120	no limit	Nov 1-Feb 29	120	no limit
Falconry	No extended season			No extended season		
<u>Pacific Flyway Waterfowl, Coot</u>						
Western Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 2-19	18	7 duck, 25 coot	Oct 3-Oct 21	19	7, 25
	Nov 6-Jan 31	87	7, 25	Nov 7-Jan 31	86	7, 25
(scaup)	Oct 2-19, Nov 6-Jan 12 (86 days total)			Oct 3-Oct 21, Nov 7-Jan 12 (86 days total)		
Eastern Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 2-Jan 14	105	7, 25	Oct 3-Jan 15	105	7, 25
(scaup)	Oct 2-Dec 26 (86 days total)			Oct 3-Dec 27 (86 days total)		
September Canada Goose Season	Sep 1-9	9	4	Sep 1-9	9	4
Western Goose Zone	Oct 2-10	10	4 dark, 10 light	Oct 3-Oct 12	10	4 dark, 10 light
	Nov 6-Jan 31	86		Nov 7-Jan 31	86	
Eastern Goose Zone	Oct 2-Jan 5	96	4 dark, 10 light	Oct 3-Jan 6	96	4 dark, 10 light

### Regulation Change Notification: Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Colorado 2021-2022

Season	2021-2022 Proposed Regulations			2020-2021 Regulations		
	Proposed dates	Days	Daily bag limit	Dates	Days	Daily bag limit
<u>Central Flyway Waterfowl, Coot</u>						
September Teal Season	Sep 11-19	9	6	Sep 12-20	9	6
Mountain/Foothills Duck Zone	Oct 2-Nov 28	58	6 duck, 15 coot	Oct 3-Nov 30	59	6, 15
	Dec 25-Jan 31	38	6, 15	Dec 26-Jan 31	37	6, 15
Northeast Duck Zone	Oct 9-Nov 28	51	6, 15	Oct 10-Nov 30	52	6, 15
	Dec 18-Jan 31	45	6, 15	Dec 19-Jan 31	44	6, 15
Southeast Duck Zone	Oct 28-Jan 31	96	6, 15	Oct 28-Jan 31	96	6, 15
North Park Dark Goose Zone	Oct 2-Jan 14	105	5	Oct 3-Jan 15	105	5
South Park Dark Goose Zone	Oct 2-Jan 14	105	5	Oct 3-Jan 15	105	5
San Luis Valley Dark Goose Zone	Oct 2-20	19	5	Oct 3-Oct 21	19	5
	Nov 20-Feb 13	86		Nov 21-Feb 14	86	
Northern Front Range Dark Goose Zone*	Included in Remainder of Central Flyway zone	105	5	Oct 3-Oct 21	19	5
				Nov 21-Feb 14	86	
Remainder Central Flyway Dark Goose Zone	Nov 1-Feb 13	105	5	Nov 2-Feb 14	105	5
Central Flyway light goose	Oct 30-Feb 13	107	50	Oct 31-Feb 14	107	50
Light goose conservation order	Feb 14-Apr 30	76	no limit	Feb 15-Apr 30	74	no limit
<u>Youth/Military Waterfowl Weekends</u>						
Pacific Flyway Western Zone	Oct 23-24	2		Oct 24-25	2	
Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone	Sep 25-26	2		Sep 26-27	2	
Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills	Sep 25-26	2		Sep 26-27	2	
Central Flyway Northeast Zone	Oct 2-3	2		Oct 3-4	2	
Central Flyway Southeast Zone	Oct 23-24	2		Oct 24-25	2	

Possession limits for all seasons are three times the daily bag limit, with the exception that there is no possession limit for crow, Central Flyway light goose, and the light goose conservation order. Overall daily bag limits for ducks include the following restrictions: Pacific Flyway – no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup; Central Flyway – up to 5

mallards, but no more than 2 can be female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 1 scaup; in addition to the daily duck bag, 5 mergansers may be taken, 2 of which can be hooded mergansers.

\*See Issue Paper.

# 2021-2022 Central Flyway Northeast Duck Zone Seasons

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

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			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Teal
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
73	= Regular duck season
23	= High Plains Unit Days
Holidays marked in red	

# 2021-2022 Central Flyway Southeast Duck Zone Seasons

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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## January

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Teal
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
73	= Regular duck season
23	= High Plains Unit Days
Holidays marked in red	

# 2021-2022 Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills Duck Zone Seasons

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Teal
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
73	= Regular duck season
23	= High Plains Unit Days
Holidays marked in red	

# 2021-2022 Central Flyway San Luis Valley Dark Goose Season

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

# 2021-2022 Central Flyway North Park and South Park Dark Goose Seasons

### September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

### December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### January

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



# 2021-2022 Remainder Central Flyway Dark Goose Seasons

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

# 2021-2022 Central Flyway Light Goose Season

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

# 2021-2022 Pacific Flyway Western Waterfowl Zone Seasons

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Number of days (107 total each for ducks and geese)

9 = September Canada goose

2 = Youth/Military Weekend

105 = Regular duck season

96 = Regular goose season

Holidays marked in red

# 2021-2022 Pacific Flyway Eastern Waterfowl Zone Seasons

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Number of days (107 total each for ducks and geese)

9 = September Canada goose

2 = Youth/Military Weekend

105 = Regular duck season

96 = Regular goose season

Holidays marked in red

**ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM**

Date: 12/09/2020

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the Northern Front Range goose zone be eliminated and the area in the zone be combined with the Balance of the Central Flyway zone?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>The current description for the Northern Front Range (NFR) goose zone in Chapter W-5 (#512, D) is:</p> <p>All areas in Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties from the Continental Divide east along the Wyoming border to Highway 85, south on Highway 85 to the Adams County Line, and all lands in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties.</p> <p>The annual NFR goose zone season is split into a short early segment (usually 10-20 days beginning in late September or early October) and a longer, later segment that begins the weekend before Thanksgiving and extends to the Sunday closest to February 15 (the latest date permitted under federal regulation frameworks). In the remainder of the Front Range foothills and eastern plains (referred to as the "Balance of the Central Flyway" zone in Chapter W-5 and the Central Flyway "Regular Season" in the small game and waterfowl hunting brochure), the season is backed up from the Sunday closest to February 15 and begins in early November, with no splits in the season. The annual total season length is the same in both zones.</p> <p>The purpose of the early season segment in the NFR zone is to provide opportunity to harvest resident Canada geese. There is a well-established year-round population of resident Canada geese along the Front Range that is currently stable or slightly increasing in abundance. As the human population has rapidly increased along the Front Range, conflicts between resident Canada geese and humans have increased in urban and suburban areas. While hunting harvest does not remedy all human-geese conflicts, hunting is a socially acceptable way to remove some geese from the resident population.</p> <p>Canada and cackling geese migrating from more northern breeding areas do not arrive in Colorado until November or later, so hunting pressure during the October season segment is focused on local, resident geese. While relatively few geese are harvested during the early season segment compared to the remainder of the season (the 15-year average estimated harvest in northern Front Range counties during the early segment is about 1,000/year, versus over 43,000/year during the remainder of the season), virtually all of the geese harvested during the early segment are resident geese from the Front Range. As migrant geese from other breeding areas arrive to spend the winter along the Front Range, they quickly 'swamp out' the resident geese (numbers of migrant geese that spend the fall and winter along the Front Range are about 10 times the number of year-round resident geese). However, Front Range resident geese continue to be harvested throughout the later segment of the NFR season: based on hunter recoveries of resident geese banded along the Front Range during 2003-2008, 28% of harvested resident geese were harvested during the early season segment, and 72% were harvested during the later season segment. In addition, large numbers of migrant geese usually do not arrive along the Front Range until late November or December. Therefore, if the NFR zone was eliminated and incorporated into the Balance of the Central Flyway zone, it is likely that most of the resident goose harvest that currently occurs in October would shift to early November.</p> <p>Opportunities to harvest geese in the NFR zone are contingent upon suitable lands being open and accessible for hunting. Most hunting opportunity is on private land in agricultural fields or pastures that are leased to hunters or outfitters. In recent years, field staff have noticed that as the Front Range continues to be developed, some locations that were traditionally used for goose hunting are no longer available. Some landowners do not begin harvesting corn fields until later in the fall, and some do not begin leasing their lands for goose hunting until the later season segment. Thus, opportunities to harvest resident Canada geese during the early season segment are declining, and this trend is expected to continue.</p> <p>Eliminating the NFR zone would simplify hunting regulations. Currently, some hunters continue hunting during the split in the NFR season, and some hunters appear confused about season dates near the</p>	

<p>boundary between the NFR zone and the Balance of Central Flyway zone. There would be no loss of overall hunting opportunity by eliminating the NFR zone (season days currently in October would simply be shifted about a month later), with no expected measurable impact on harvest of resident Canada geese along the Front Range. Continued urbanization and loss of hunting access will likely have more negative impacts on harvest of resident Canada geese than any change in timing of the season.</p>	
<p><b>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</b>  <b>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</b></p>	
<p>External publics are hunters, landowners, and residents surrounding hunted areas in the NFR zone. There has been no formal input process, but DWMs have discussed this issue internally and with some hunters and landowners. Contacts with hunters that are violating regulations by hunting when the season is not open are increasing.</p>	
<p><b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b></p>	
<p>1. <b>*Preferred Alternative*:</b> Beginning with the 2021-2022 seasons, eliminate the Northern Front Range goose zone. This area will be included in the "Balance of Central Flyway" zone, which will include all areas east of the Continental Divide, except North Park, South Park and the San Luis Valley.</p> <p>2. No change in current regulations.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Brandon Muller, Pepper Canterbury
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Jim Gammonley
CC:	Regulations Managers
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	MARK LESLIE
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION:	Research, Policy and Planning
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO