

ODNR Division of Wildlife
Proposed OAC Rule Changes
 (Effective 07-01-2017)

1501:31-7-05 Seasons and Limits on Rail, Common Snipe (Wilson’s snipe), Woodcock, Gallinules (Common Moorhens), Teal, Geese, and Mourning Doves.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to adjust season dates and bag limits according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines. Proposed dates and bag limits are:

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
Rails <i>(Virginia and sora only)</i>	September 1 through November 9	25	75
Common Moorhen <i>(Gallinule)</i>	September 1 through November 9	15	45
Common <i>(Wilson’s)</i> Snipe	September 1 through November 26 & December 16, 2017 through January 4, 2018	8	24
Mourning Dove <i>(including Eurasian collared-dove)</i>	September 1 through November 5 & December 16, 2017 through January 8, 2018	15	45
Woodcock	October 13 through November 26	3	9
Teal <i>(blue-winged, green-winged, cinnamon teal only)</i>	September 2 through September 17	6	18
Early statewide Canada Goose	September 2 through September 10	5	15

1501:31-7-06 Seasons and limits on ducks, brant, geese, mergansers, and coots.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to adjust season dates and bag limits according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines.

It is proposed that the age for those participating in the youth season be changed from “persons fifteen years of age or younger” to “persons seventeen years of age or younger.” This change will reflect changes made by the USFWS.

Proposed dates and bag limits are as listed below and include changes in the bag limit for canvasback (from 1 to 2) and pintails (from 2 to 1):

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
<p>Light Geese <i>(Snows, Blues, Ross')</i></p> <p>Dark Geese <i>(Canada, White-fronted Geese and Brant</i></p>	<p>LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE October 14 –October 29, 2017 & November 11 – December 24, 2017 & January 6 – February 12, 2018</p> <p>NORTH ZONE October 21 – November 5, 2017 & November 18 – December 31, 2017, & January 6 – February 12, 2018</p> <p>SOUTH ZONE October 21 – November 5, 2017 & November 23 – February 12, 2018</p> <p>Goose hunting will be unlawful after January 28, 2018 on Pymatuning Lake.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9</p>

2017-2018 Duck, Coot, Merganser and Canvasback Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
Ducks	LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE October 14 – October 29, 2017 & November 11 - December 24, 2017	6*	18
Coots		15	45
Mergansers	NORTH ZONE October 21 – November 5, 2017 & November 18 – December 31, 2017 SOUTH ZONE October 21 – November 5, 2017 & December 16, 2017 - January 28, 2018	5*	15

***Daily Bag Limits**
 Ducks: Daily bag limit of 6 ducks not to include more than 4 mallards (only 1 of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 3 scaup (bluebill), 2 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, or 1 pintail.
 Mergansers: Daily bag limit of 5, not to include more than 2 hooded mergansers.

NOTE: Youth Waterfowl Dates: October 7 & 8, 2017

1501:31-15-02 General hunting and trapping provisions.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to allow the sale of groundhog hides. While somewhat limited, there is a market for the hides and it will allow for the use of animals killed as an agricultural nuisance.

1501:31-15-07 Areas having limited hunting.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to clearly specify the time frame during which portions of Shenango, Salt Fork and Killbuck Wildlife Areas are open on limited days. Currently the rule states “during duck season” and it is not clear if it includes the early teal season.

1501:31-15-10 Wild turkey regulations.

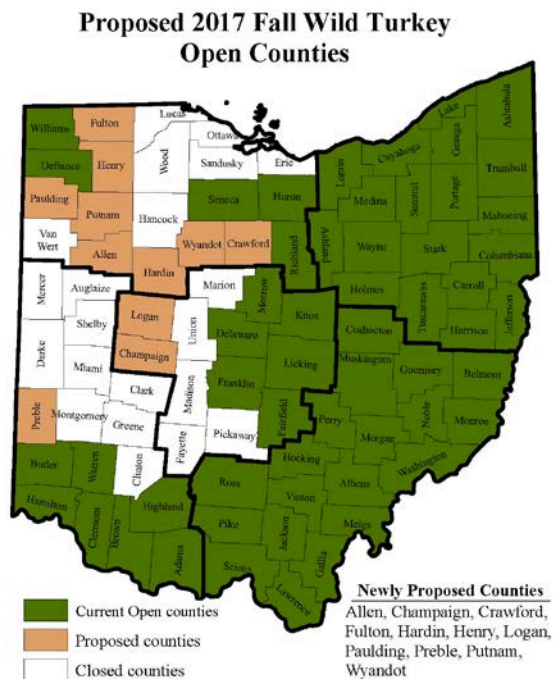
It is proposed that this rule be amended to reflect changes in dates for spring turkey season and the youth turkey season.

Youth season dates April 21 and 22, 2018, half-hour before sunrise to sunset

Northeast Zone dates April 30-May 13, 2018, half-hour before sunrise to noon
May 14-May 27, 2018, half-hour before sunrise to sunset

South Zone dates April 23 –May 6, 2018, half-hour before sunrise to noon
May 7-May 20, 2018, half-hour before sunrise to sunset

In addition, it is proposed that the fall turkey season be expanded to include the following counties: Allen, Champaign, Crawford, Fulton, Hardin, Henry, Logan, Paulding, Preble, Putnam and Wyandot.



1501:31-15-11 Deer Regulations.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to reflect that any straight-walled cartridge rifle, with a minimum caliber of .357 to a maximum caliber of .50 be allowed for hunting deer in Ohio. There have been three seasons of hunting deer with straight-walled cartridge rifles in Ohio and we have had no biological impacts to the herd or additional hunter incidents as a result. By defining the allowable rifles in the proposed manner it makes the rule easily understood and easily enforced; in addition it is inclusive of a great number of options in rifles.

It is also proposed that the following language be modified to include rifles: "It shall be unlawful for any person to be in possession of shotgun slugs [or rifle ammunition](#) while hunting during the youth deer gun season, except youth hunters hunting deer."

It is proposed that the language in paragraph B of the rule be amended from "It shall be unlawful to hunt or take any deer under the authority of an antlerless deer permit, outside of a division of wildlife authorized controlled hunt, from the following counties" to "It shall be unlawful to attach an antlerless deer permit, or otherwise use an antlerless deer permit, or to obtain a game check confirmation number with an antlerless deer permit, on or for any deer hunted or taken outside of a division of wildlife authorized controlled hunt from the following counties." This will allow officers to enforce the law intended to control the use of these permits to specific counties.

1501:31-15-17 Seasons for game birds, game quadrupeds and furbearing animals.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to reflect the date adjustments for crow season, within the federal guidelines.

1501:31-19-03 Disease surveillance area regulations.

It is proposed that this rule be amended by adding the language "or bovine tuberculosis" to paragraph A which authorizes the chief to designate a disease surveillance area. Currently the rule only allows such designation for detection of chronic wasting disease in cervids.

It is further proposed that this rule be amended to allow just the head to be presented to the inspection station instead of the entire carcass. This will allow for easier submission of the animals to be tested.

1501:31-23-01 Special endangered wild animal regulations.

A native species or subspecies threatened with extirpation from the state. The danger may result from one or more causes, such as habitat loss, pollution, predation, interspecific competition, or disease.

It is proposed that this rule be amended as follows:

Additions to the endangered species list:

Bigeye shiner, from threatened.

Tonguetied minnow, from threatened.

Water penny beetle (*Dicranopselapus variegatus*), from unlisted.

Caddisfly (*Brachycentrus nigrosoma*), from unlisted.

Removals from the endangered species list:

Caddisfly (*Brachycentrus numerous*), to unlisted.

Sandhill crane, to the threatened list.

1501:31-23-02 Species designated as threatened.

A species or subspecies whose survival in Ohio is not in immediate jeopardy, but to which a threat exists. Continued or increased stress will result in its becoming endangered.

It is proposed that this rule be amended as follows:

Additions to the threatened species list:

Sandhill cranes from the endangered.

Removals from the threatened list:

Bigeye shiner, to endangered.

Tonguetied minnow, to endangered.

1501:31-40-01 Ginseng harvest season, reseeding, collection records.

It is proposed that this rule be amended to clarify what is meant by the record keeping requirement and the requirement to present said records “upon demand.”